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Kent on Sunday

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North & West Edition No 629

ENTERTAINMENT »

Chetna: My life in the Bake Off tent

We speak to star after Nancy triumphs on top TV show

BY-ELECTION »

Reckless takes hope from Carswell win

Ukip senses victory in race for Medway seat

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County's fresh challenge to balance the books amid further big reductions

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Is everyone else bored by use of the b-word?

IF THERE is one word we have heard time and time again over recent years, and rarely in a way to send a shiver of excitement down our spines, it must surely be 'budget'.

The nation, as a whole, seems unable to keep within it, we're constantly told to ensure we live inside it, and the impact of our Government's failure over the years to do so, inevitably means we see public services further eroded.

In short, don't expect a barrel of laughs when the word pops up in conversation.

Yet it is just possible that as a consequence of this prolonged period of austerity, we will be breeding a future generation with a very different approach to their bottom line.

Many of us, after all, had spent the last 20 years being bombarded with promises of zero interest deals and long-term repayments.

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had to scrimp. We just went in and got it and paid for it later. The result was we ended up living a life where it was a case of juggling debts rather than building up savings.

Now, however, that has all gone. Instead, we're hammered over the head with keeping within our limits and, seeing first hand, what happens when, as a nation, we don't. It could literally pay dividends in years to come. At least let's hope so.

All of which leads me to point you inside to see the struggle KCC is up against and the cuts it will be forced to make to balance the books. There's a chance for you to have your say too. This is important stuff which impacts on us all, so engage now or forever hold your peace. Things will get better.

Eventually. Hopefully prosperity lurks just around the corner. We can but pray, eh?

Have a great weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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Our hospitals 'prepared' for any threat of Ebola

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs across the county insist they are ready to cope with any suspected outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus.

Concerns over the illness, which is spreading rapidly through west Africa, heightened this week after cases were diagnosed in Spain and the US.

Security health checks were reinforced on Friday, with additional medical checks to be conducted at St Pancras, for those travelling through the county on Eurostar, as well as at Gatwick Airport.

But defence secretary and Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon said: "The World Health Organisation advice is that it is better to screen on exit from a country to make sure that people who are leaving are not infected, rather than trying to screen people who arrive."

"It is very hard to be able to track people who are changing planes and arriving by different means in the UK. It is particularly difficult because the symptoms may not be obvious for a number of weeks after you actually catch the disease. It is



READY: Locally health chiefs believe the chance of Ebola cases in Kent are 'low' but they are prepared

not straightforward."

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust said it does have two isolation rooms should a suspected case emerge.

A spokesman at the trust, which manages hospitals including the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, QEOM in Margate and the Kent and Canterbury, said: "We do have Ebola in our infection control procedures already, so it is not something we have had to draw up."

"We do consider seeing a case to

be a low probability at this stage."

At the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, which oversees Medway Maritime, a spokesman explained: "In the event that an individual does present with a travel history to an affected area and symptoms that are indicative of Ebola, they would be managed appropriately locally before being transferred to one of the designated specialist hospitals for treatment."

The Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust did not wish to

discuss its arrangements.

And Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford, added: "Our A&E staff have received extra training on the necessary additional personal protective equipment needed."

"If the suspicion of Ebola is high we have a protocol for clinical samples and patient transfer to a specialised unit in London where patients will be cared for."

Work on finding a cure for the disease continues after some successful trials.

PM vows 'several visits' to county as Ukip looks to build on Clacton win

PRIME Minister David Cameron has confirmed he expects to make "several" trips to the county as he looks to fight what could be a brutal battle in a bid to retain Rochester and Strood following the defection of Mark Reckless to Ukip.

It comes as the race towards the by-election – the date of which is still to be confirmed but is set to be November – gathers pace after Douglas Carswell romped to victory in the Clacton by-election in the early hours of Friday morning.

Mr Carswell was the first sitting Tory MP to switch sides, force a by-election, and then become his new party's first elected MP.

Mr Reckless stunned Westminster when he defected to Ukip last month.

Mr Cameron said: "We'll be working extremely hard in Rochester and Strood to ensure we have the best possible candidate for Conservative voters to support."

"We never under estimate any of our political opponents, and I'm looking forward to making several

visits to the area as part of the campaign."

Over-turning the Tory majority of 12,000 to deliver a near identical Ukip win, Mr Carswell immediately turned the focus on Rochester in order to help his good friend Mr Reckless follow him back to Westminster under Ukip colours.

A triumphant Mr Carswell said: "Mark Reckless is one of the most decent people I know in politics. He's a patriot, a diligent constituency MP. I'm confident that local people will vote for the man they know, not for the smears of the Westminster machine."

Mr Carswell, Mr Reckless and Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who is standing for the Thanet South seat in 2015, were all expected to appear in Rochester on Saturday as the campaign got under way. A recent poll suggested Mr Reckless had a nine-point lead over the Tories.

Turn to pages 19-21 for all the latest on the by-election build-up in Rochester and Strood, along with full political analysis.

Confirmed: Ann Barnes will be investigated over crash

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes, is to be investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission following her car crash in Dartford on September 16.

The IPCC will investigate whether Mrs Barnes was legally insured to drive the private Mercedes involved in the crash.

The IPCC was first alerted to the issue after details of the accident

were referred to the watchdog by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent.

After an initial assessment, the IPCC decided that a full investigation into whether a criminal offence had been committed was necessary.

The police watchdog say that the investigation will be overseen by IPCC commissioner Cindy Butts.

Mrs Barnes has made no comment.

Tesco shelves controversial seaside supermarket plans

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco has pulled the plug on plans to build a major new store on Margate seafront - delighting campaigners who have long opposed the proposals.

The Arlington House site, close to Dreamland, had been earmarked for an 82,000sq ft development which included a 60-bedroom hotel.

But it has become the latest

victim of Tesco's shift in focus - moving away from opening giant new stores in response to changing shopping habits.

A Tesco spokesman said: "After careful consideration we have decided not to pursue a new large store in Margate. We'd like to thank everyone who supported our plans. We will continue to serve the local community."



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Dispersal zone thrown up around town centre

POLICE have thrown a dispersal area across part of Sheerness in a bid to crack down on antisocial behaviour.

The zone gives police the power to move on any group of two or more people found to be "causing, or likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress" who are advised not to return for up to 24 hours.

Anyone who fails to comply could be arrested and

face up to three months in prison or be ordered to pay a fine of up to £2,500.

The six-month order followed reports of nuisance behaviour in Sheerness town centre and around Beachfields Park.

The boundary of the dispersal area is the A250 Bridge Road, Millenium Way and A250 Trinity Road, and goes up to the sea at Jacob's Bank.

Dad's Army movie to be set in Kent...but will all be filmed in Yorkshire

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A NEW movie based around the classic comedy Dad's Army is to be set in Kent - but with all filming for the star-studded remake taking place in Yorkshire.

Producers confirmed this week the cast list for the re-boot of the war-time classic which originally ran from 1968 to 1977.

Originally starring the likes of Ramsgate's John Le Mesurier as Sgt Wilson and Arthur Lowe as Captain Mainwaring, the new film will feature Meopham's Michael Gambon as Godfrey, Tom Courtenay as Corporal Jones and Blake Harrison, from the Inbetweeners, as Private Pike.

Toby Jones will step into the role of Mainwaring and Bill Nighy as Wilson.

Catherine Zeta-Jones, who made her name in the Darling Buds of May, shot in Pluckley, near Ashford, also stars as a news reporter.

A synopsis of the new movie released this week revealed: "It is 1944



DON'T PANIC! The original cast

and World War II is reaching its climax. The Allies are poised to invade France and finally defeat the German army.

"But in Walmington-on-Sea, morale among the Home Guard is low.

Their new mission then - to patrol the Dover army base - is a great chance to revive spirits and reputation, that is until glamorous journalist Rose Winters arrives to write about their exploits, setting the pulses racing and putting the local women on red alert. MI5 then discover a radio signal sent direct to Berlin from Walmington-on-Sea.

"There's a spy on the loose! The outcome of the war is suddenly at stake, and it falls to our unlikely heroes to stand up and be counted."

A spokesman for the Kent Film Office, which tries to lure companies to film in the county, said: "We'd have loved to have welcomed the Dad's Army production team here. But the fact scenes are being shot in Yorkshire is not a reflection on Kent and we assume the film company has found more appropriate buildings and settings to represent Dover 70 years ago."

A movie version was released in 1971 with the original cast - with scenes on the white cliffs of Dover... filmed in East Sussex.



HOPE: Felipe Alviar-Baquero

Lawyer to star in new series of Apprentice

A LAWYER from Kings Hill will be vying to become Alan Sugar's next business partner when he lines up in the new series of hit reality TV show The Apprentice.

The BBC1 show returns on Tuesday, with the contestants unveiled this week.

Among them will be Felipe Alviar-Baquero, a lawyer born in Colombia in South America, but now living in Kings Hill, near Tonbridge.

The 34-year-old will be locking horns with 19 other candidates all looking to win Lord Sugar's £250,000 investment.

He describes himself as being naturally entrepreneurial, visionary and very organised. However, he said that he may struggle with numbers on the show, as accountancy is his worst business skill.

Mr Alviar-Baquero shouldn't struggle with popularity though, as he was once voted one of the top 100 Colombians by the country's government.

Mr Alviar-Baquero came to the UK from Colombia when he was just 17. He chose to move here to study English, going on to study at Oxford University.

Previous winner, Stella English, who lives in Whitstable, fell out with Lord Sugar, eventually taking him to an industrial tribunal which she went on to lose.

Medway Test results bring mixed fortunes

MORE than 1,000 children this week discovered they had secured the pass mark in the Medway Test to allow them to apply to a grammar school next year.

Some 1,039 children out of 2,417 - 321 of whom are not from Medway - gained a pass mark in the 11-plus exam which they sat last month.

Achieving a pass mark does not necessarily guarantee a child will get a place at a grammar - but they can apply for selective schools.

Mike O'Brien, Medway Council's portfolio holder for children's services, said: "I would like to congratulate all the children who took the Medway Test this year.

"Moving up to secondary school from primary is a huge step for all children and I wish them every success when they make the move next year."

Parents are entitled to appeal against the results.

For the Kent Test results, which are due this week, see facing page.

Death of long-serving Labour councillor

A FORMER mayor of Gravesend and long-serving Labour councillor, has died.

Lady Anne Murray, passed away following deteriorating health which had necessitated a move from her former home in Gravesend to London three years ago. She was 85.

Born Anne Wakeford, she was brought up in Crayford, and educated at Dartford Grammar School for Girls. She joined the Labour Party in 1950, serving as a councillor in the London borough of Lambeth between 1958 and 1965.

She met her husband, the former Gravesend MP Albert Murray, at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool in 1959.

When he won his seat in Gravesend in 1964, the couple moved to the town, with Lady Murray remaining there until 2011.

She also served as president for the North Kent Sunday football league, the Gravesend branches of the NSPCC, the National Association of Widows and the Royal British Legion.

Hundreds pay fitting tribute to WW1 fallen

MORE than 300 people paid tribute to the local fallen of the First World War in Tunbridge Wells on Monday.

Held to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War, the event was a ticket-only special at the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre.

Named 'Poppy', the event featured nearly 100 local young performers including the sea cadet band of the TS Brilliant.

All monies raised by the event went to the Royal British Legion.

Organiser of the event, and marketing manager at the centre, Marc Burchett, said: "We were delighted by the overwhelming support for this event and thank everyone for their generous contributions.

"It was a great tribute to the honour of our fallen heroes that so many of our local young people were able to play such an important role in this act of remembrance for our town centre."

The event took place after shops had shut.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Anxious wait for Kent Test results set to end

THOUSANDS of children will learn this week whether or not they have done enough in the Kent Test to qualify for a place at one of the county's grammar schools.

Youngsters currently in Year Six sat the exams shortly after returning to school in September.

They were the first to experience the new so-called 'tutor proof'

version of the 11-plus, designed to prevent children from wealthier background hiring in tutors to coach their children into a selective school.

Parents will first learn of the results just after 4pm on Wednesday, October 15. The results will be sent to those who registered their child online and submitted an



email address.

Kent County Council says it will be dependant on internet provider as to when your email will arrive.

The results will also be sent by first class post on the same day.

Rail disruption rolls on after track repair work

COMMUTERS are being warned disruption to services in north Kent and south east London will continue for at least another three weeks.

Speaking at the start of the week, a spokesman for South-eastern said: "The crossing that allows trains to run from the Bexleyheath line through Lewisham towards London

Victoria has broken.

"This crossing is a specialist piece of equipment and it will take at least four weeks to build a replacement. We are working with Network Rail to ensure the work is completed as quickly as possible."

All trains between Victoria and Dartford via Bexleyheath will be diverted via Sidcup.

...also

Politics in the classroom

COUNTY councillors are set to pay a series of visits to schools across Kent next week to mark Local Democracy Week.

It is hoped youngsters will get the chance know their local representative on Kent County Council and find out how democracy affects all aspects of their lives.

Arts festival set to start

ARTS extravaganza the Canterbury Festival gets under way next Saturday, offering its regular broad programme of events taking place at venues across the city.

The event runs from October 18 until November 21.

Folkestone flood event

A MEETING takes place on Tuesday to examine concerns over flooding in and around Folkestone.

Hosted by local county councillors and the Folkestone Neighbourhood Forum, it takes place at the Town Hall in Guildhall Street at 5.45pm.

A2 roadworks continue

MORE traffic problems will be expected in and around Canterbury as a nine-week closure of a stretch of the busy A2 continues this weekend.

The road is shut every weekend until December between Brenley Corner and Wincheap.



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KCC unveiled its draft budget this week – now you get a chance to have a say. **Jamie Weir** was there...



COUNTY HALL: Hundreds of staff set to lose their jobs as county once again forced to save millions. Paul Carter (top) believes some services will improve – a view not shared by Derek Smyth

Deep cuts leave county facing further scars as spending is slashed once more

THE pain of the austerity drive continues to be felt as Kent County Council this week unveiled its draft budget for the next year – and with it a £90m reduction on spending and the loss of potentially hundreds of jobs.

Despite claims frontline services will be protected, opponents say savage cuts will be inevitable in order to balance the books.

The budget details were revealed by Conservative council leader Paul Carter and finance member John Simmonds on Thursday morning.

The proposed budget will cost an estimated 250-400 jobs across the authority, meaning that by 2018 some 2,000 posts will have gone – a staggering 25 per cent reduction in the workforce in seven years.

The budget, currently in draft form, has been released for public consultation public, with council chiefs stating that changes can be made if there is sufficient strength of feeling among residents.

The county council leadership has stressed that, despite the axe being wielded again, frontline services would not suffer, but Labour group finance spokesman Derek Smyth does not accept any reassurances.

He told KoS: “The fact is there will be cuts to services, and these cuts are getting ever more severe as the years pass. While the ruling party talk about efficiencies, and there will be

some, that won’t avoid many of our services being cut back. That can’t be good news for many in the county and my fear is that large chunks of lower- and middle-income people will be squeezed as a result.”

Cllr Carter was more optimistic about the draft budget announced by his council, saying that although less money was being spent and fewer workers would be in post, efficiency meant that the same quality, and better, could be provided.

He said: “Yet again, we have had to find savings. Every year, I say that the cumulative effect of those savings make it more difficult to balance the budget. We have lost around 10 per cent of the budget every year for the last three or four years, and this will go on for the next three years. They’re big numbers.”

“But we are seeing a great thrust on preventative services, particularly in children’s services, and what I will say is that just because we are spending slightly less money, it doesn’t mean to say there are cuts in service.”

“In fact, quite the opposite and I think that the work we have done in driving efficiency in social care allows us to focus our resources on frontline services. Spending less money, and saving £90 million doesn’t mean, by conclusion, that we are actually cutting services at the front line.”

“I hope we have a budget that even the Taxpayers’ Alliance would agree with.”

KCC’s cabinet member for finance,

and the man in control of the budget-making process, John Simmonds, told KoS that although cuts were a bitter pill to swallow, central government funding for local councils was dropping and KCC needed to save cash somewhere.

He said: “You can no longer sort this issue out in the short term. When you think about what we have saved over the past few years, even finding savings of £500,000 is hard at this point. We plucked the easy stuff long ago and are now being left with more difficult decisions to take.”

One of those difficult decisions has been a council tax rise of 1.99 per cent – a rise equivalent to £19 per year on a band C property. It is the maximum increase allowed without the rise triggering a local referendum.

Cllr Carter said that he hoped the residents of Kent “would understand”, noting that the rise was only slightly over the nation’s rate of inflation of 1.5 per cent. It was said the increase would bring in an extra £10m for the council, meaning fewer cuts elsewhere.

Cllr Simmonds stressed that the national backdrop meant KCC would be squeezed for some time to come.

He said: “Government is about halfway on its journey to eliminating public debt, but I don’t envisage it will get any easier for us until at least 2018.”

“There is unlikely to be any let-up on us with regards to spending for some time, whatever the outcome of

the General Election, as all political parties have indicated economic restraint will continue.”

And taking aim at the Government, Cllr Simmonds blamed it for many of the cuts being forced on the county authority.

He said: “What has annoyed me particularly is that the Government’s way of calculating the effect on spending is somewhat dishonest. When you look at the difference per head of population, if we received the same Government funding per person as London gets, we would have an extra £102m in our budget, and that’s around £10m more than we have had to cut this year. London is not unique in deprivation.”

But, despite this, Cllr Simmonds says that the budget is solid and will deliver the massive savings the council has to make – the authority has already cut £269m over the past three years and is now expecting to be forced to make a further £206m reduction up to 2018.

He said: “With this new proposed budget we are looking at similar or better outcomes for people, with less cost. We invested £1m in taking on a new procurement team. That group has managed to deliver savings of around £18m since it was formed. That’s the kind of work we are looking to extend.”

Speaking about the proposed staff

redundancies, Cllr Simmonds stated that it was unlikely to have a significant effect as the council had been planning for the future over the past few years.

He said: “Staffing reductions including restructures and vacancy management we believe are likely to affect somewhere between 250 to 400 people over a three-year period. But, as always, as we have been looking ahead to the future we haven’t been filling vacancies, so it won’t have such a dramatic effect on staff.”

And although the Labour group is unhappy about the cuts, its finance spokesman says that it is an unfortunate necessity.

Cllr Smyth said: “The savings do have to be made somewhere because of the Government’s funding cuts and added pressures to our services.”

“With grants being cut, and less money coming in to the council, it is the only thing which can be done.”

“The really important thing is that people actually respond to this consultation to let us know what they want. If we get responses, we will be able to take this and use it to ensure that people’s views are heard, and that’s the crucial thing.”

The consultation, which is being run until November 28, asks residents to give their views on the proposed budget. The public can respond to it by going online to www.kent.gov.uk/budget and answering two short, simple questions.

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Chetna lifts the lid on life in the tent and what she plans to cook up next

In the week 12 million viewers tuned in to watch Nancy Birtwhistle crowned champion of BBC TV's hugely popular Great British Bake-Off, **Sarah Linney** spoke to contestant Chetna Makan to serve up a slice of life on the phenomenon

SHE delighted the judges with her carefully-crafted fusions of Indian and British flavours and viewers with her unassuming charm and radiant smile.

But Chetna Makan says she never expected to reach the semi-finals of the BBC's Great British Bake-Off – or to even get into the competition in the first place.

"I have always cooked, but I got into baking three or four years ago after having children and baking cakes for them," said the 36-year-old, who lives in Broadstairs.

"Then, last year after the show aired, all my friends said I should try to apply. I only made cakes then, but I decided to give it a go."

The show has become something of a phenomenon, sparking a revival in traditional baking and making household names of the likes of judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. Mr Hollywood is certainly no stranger to the county – he lives in a village near Canterbury.

Such was its popularity, it moved from its BBC2 home to a prime-time slot on BBC1 for this series.

Adds Mrs Makan: "I thought it would never happen, but there was no harm in filling in the application form."

There certainly wasn't. Several auditions later, in March this year, Mrs Makan found out she was one of the 12 contestants who had been chosen for the shows, presented by Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins.

"Since I was chosen it's been quite a roller-coaster," Chetna said.

"When you go through, you have four weeks to prepare the 20 recipes that you will be making.

"You are given ideas, but you have to come up with the recipes. Then you are filming every weekend – you are there for two full days and they put you up in a hotel.

"It was a lot of hard work. We had to work on things we had never baked before. I had only done cakes at that point – I had never done breads or pies and some of the boys had made only bread. You end up sitting up quite late at night working on the recipes.

"We were making things like a tower of pies and working with caramel. No-one had made Dobos torte

before and the show was the first time I had ever made doughnuts."

The show – filmed this year near Newbury in Berkshire – happens just as it is shown on TV, with the signature and technical challenge on the Saturday and the showstopper on the Sunday.

"There are no retakes for anything," Mrs Makan said.

"There might be retakes for [presenters] Sue and Mel coming in, that might be done once or twice, but once they say 'Bake!' it's all done in real time.

"And when you see it on TV and they do the big reveal, that's how it is in reality."

The show is often described as TV's nicest competition and, far from sniping and trying to outdo each other, this year's contestants were often seen helping each other and joking together.

"We all got on and we still are a very close bunch – even including Claire, who left in week one," she said.

"It wasn't very competitive and we used to have a really good laugh.

"We have tried to see each other since leaving the tent and we have had big get-togethers with our families. I get along really well with Iain, Nancy, Kate and Richard.

"Mel and Sue are as lovely as they seem, very friendly, and they make you feel comfortable in the tent.

"The judges didn't mix so much and kept their distance – but, yes, Paul Hollywood got on with all of us!"

The only moment when things looked less than amicable in the tent was the incident in week four dubbed Bingate – when Iain Watters threw

his baked Alaska in the bin after it was taken out of the freezer by fellow contestant Diana Beard and it melted.

"That was a very stressful challenge for all of us," Mrs Makan recalled. "It was boiling – it was the hottest day of the year – and we were making ice-cream. The heat was getting to us and everyone was in their own world of madness.

"I didn't even know Iain had thrown it in the bin until we got to the end of the challenge, as it only happened in the last half-hour.

"But Diana definitely didn't have ill intentions. None of us thought that."

There was no danger of Chetna herself being involved in such a drama – despite the pressure, she seemed to be calm in the tent at all times.

"I am usually a calm person," she said. "Something has to go terribly wrong to make me lose my calm. And, also, sometimes I am really nervous or stressed inside, but it doesn't show."

Since the show started, Mrs Makan has inevitably been recognised – both in her home town and further afield.

When people start-



SUCCESS: Mrs Makan above says Paul Hollywood (left) was a hit on set

ed recognising me it was a bit strange," she laughed.

"But I think it's amazing that people want to stop and say something.

"In London people just smile or whisper behind you, no-one talks to you, but when I was out at Broadstairs Food Festival with my family, last weekend everyone stopped and said I had done well and they had wanted me to be in the final.

"It was really lovely and I think it's fantastic that people felt comfortable coming to say hello. But I think things will calm down once the show is finished."

Judge Mr Hollywood made a surprise visit to see Mrs Makan as she performed a cooking demonstration at the festival.

And with characteristic composure, she reconciled herself to the disappointment of being knocked out of the show in the week before the final.

"I was upset because I was so close, but I soon realised I did really well compared with what I thought I could do – I didn't think I would get to the semi-finals.

"All the bakers were equally good – it's all about how you do in that week."

The mum-of-two came to the UK from Mumbai, where she trained as a fashion designer, in 2004, shortly after her wedding to husband Gaurav.

There were few opportunities to pursue her original career without commuting to London and she stopped working altogether when she had her children – now six and five – but hopes to be able to pursue her cookery in more depth now.

"I do like cooking and there is nothing really that I don't like to cook – I used to not really enjoy making bread, but since going on Bake Off I love it," she said.

"The plan is to get my recipes together and see if I can do a book. From now to getting a book together is a long process, though.

"My mum is the only person who has inspired me to cook.

"A lot of my cooking is what I've seen her do – I have maybe a handful of recipe books.

"I am doing a pop-up kitchen next Saturday (October 18) for 26 people at the Queen Charlotte pub in Ramsgate, which is fully booked, and if that goes well I might do a few more.

"You will see me doing things."

“The contestants all got on really well and we have tried to see each other since leaving the tent. We have had big get-togethers with our families.”

Chetna Makan,
on life after Bake Off





Rare images nearly consigned to history paint vivid picture of our county at war

A BOOK which showcases dozens of rare images taken in the county during the Second World War and nearly lost forever after being found dumped on a Maidstone rubbish tip has been published.

Kent at War uses pictures which formed part of a remarkable 4,000-image haul of glass photographic plates recovered from a rubbish dump in 2006.

They feature military personnel, equipment, wartime training, transport and civilian life during the conflict that raged between 1939 and 1945.

Author Mark Khan explained: "The awareness of items of interest from a collectible or historic value has been helped over the last few years by the numerous television programmes dealing with the finding, selling or valuing of antiques and collectibles.

"People featured on these programmes often relate how they have found the items in unlikely places such as lofts, cupboards or skips.

"One such find in Kent was of just over 4,000 glass photographic image plates depicting military personnel and equipment, wartime training, transport and civilian life before, during and after the Second World War found on a rubbish dump in

Maidstone some years ago.

"Fortunately they were recovered and saved before they were bulldozed into the dump and lost forever.

"These fascinating images now form part of the War and Peace Collection photo archive, part of the personal collection of Rex Cadman."

Mr Cadman is the organiser of the hugely popular War and Peace Revival Show at Folkestone Racecourse.

He bought them and then spent a small fortune restoring and digitising them.

Mr Khan added: "The collection forms a snapshot of life in Kent, not only during the Second World War, but also before and after it.

"As a military historian, the collating of the images for this book has proven to be a fascinating project.

"I have learned much more about the role played by the county and its people during the Second World War.

"For me, it has been a humbling experience. I feel I now better understand in some small way what the people of Kent went through during the dark days of the conflict."

In 1940, invasion defences were built in the county as the war began to turn in the Allies' favour and, as the danger of invasion receded, Kent played its part in the great offensive against Nazi Germany.

Many images portray the early

years of the war and the forming of the Kent Home Guard, to the role the county played in the D-Day invasions.

Mr Khan said Kent was a tough place to live during the war, and added: "It was for a good reason this south eastern part of the British Isles was nicknamed Hellfire Corner.

"Not only was it extremely close to occupied France, it was also within direct bombardment range from German long-range guns situated on the coast of northern France.

"The county also provided the nearest route to and from London for the attacking German air force.

"The effects of bombing, aerial dogfights and much more had to be contended with by the people of Kent, during the war."

Selecting the pictures used was a difficult task.

Mr Khan said: "All the images featured in the book are from the War and Peace Photo Archive.

"Selecting just 150 images from the archive containing so many great photographs for this book proved to be quite a difficult exercise.

"I feel the images I used represent many facets of life in Kent during the Second World War and I hope I have done justice to the archive as a whole."

■ **Kent at War** is part of Pen & Sword's Images of War series, Mr Khan's book has a retail price of £14.99.



BYGONE DAYS: Images all taken from the War & Peace Photo Archive/Rex Cadman, and showcased in Mark Khan's (pictured) book, *Kent at War*



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Almost a year on, what has been done to keep flooding misery at bay?

Last winter's floods brought devastation across much of the county as people were forced from their homes. **Jamie Weir** investigates what efforts have been made to prevent a repeat occurrence.

LAST Christmas was a desperate time for many in the county as floods caused by heavy rainfall, saturated ground and burst river banks forced them from their homes.

When the waters finally began to recede and the debris was cleared, the human misery caused by the floods became apparent.

Many in government, including Prime Minister David Cameron, who visited heavily-affected Yalding, said that lessons should be learned and demanded that action be taken to ensure such an event never occurred again.

However, despite these calls, almost a year on, the Environment Agency (EA) – the Government agency tasked with flood defence – has not begun work on any new physical flood defences this year.

Steps have, though, been taken by the agency to shore up what it calls flood resilience, with the organisation keen to stress the measures it has taken to ensure that communication and community effort is key to avoiding the level of damage that Kent saw last year.

One of the worst-hit areas during last year's flooding was the Little Venice Caravan Park in Yalding.

A total of 50 residents had to be rescued by emergency services as the flood waters rose, engulfing the site and destroying many of the caravans there.

The manager of the site, Ben Brackenborough, told KoS that, although things had been done to prevent a repeat performance, more needed to happen before they would feel confident.

"It was hard to put a cost on the damage which was done, but it probably left us around £50,000 down at the business," he said.

"The real cost at the park was much, much higher, though, because many of the residents had to pay for their homes to be refurbished and for their outside spaces to be rebuilt."

Despite such frustrations and the lack of tangible evidence that work was being done, Rob Wise, EA flood recovery manager for Kent and south London, told KoS that he was confident that communities would be better equipped to deal with flooding if it happened this year.

He said: "We have had a huge programme to help communities understand the importance of flood resilience.

"To this end, we have invested a lot of time revising the flood warning service to simplify it and also to make it more tailored to communities. This will mean that specific areas will know what to expect, and when to expect it, much more easily.

"We are also training dedicated flood wardens in communities which are in danger of flooding. This means that we can have a conversation with that individual and they can go out and alert communities, giving them real-time information to ensure that the public are well informed and able to take steps to ensure the floods have less of an impact on them."

To make the flood warning service a better resource for communities, the EA spoke with 17 parish councils about changes it is making along the Medway Valley.

The organisation says this will mean communities are better prepared.

In addition to the improvements to the warning service, the EA has also spent time working with affected communities to help them develop action plans so that everyone knows what they should do in the event of extreme weather that may cause floods.

The EA has also trained 42 wardens from nine communities in Kent: Hildenborough, Tonbridge, East Peckham, Little Venice, Collier Street, East Farleigh, Aylesford, Boughton Monchelsea and Edenbridge.

This, the group says, means that should floods strike, the public will be able to look after themselves better.

“It was hard to put a cost on the damage which was done, but it probably left us around £50,000 down at the business. The real cost at the park was much, much higher, though.”

Ben Brackenborough, site manager at Little Venice Caravan Park in Yalding



ALL AFLOAT: Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and The Weald, gets to see the problems in Yalding first-hand, above. Top right: Rob Wise, of the Environment Agency, and Carl Lewis, right, who has been trained as a flood warden



One of the flood wardens being trained, Carl Lewis, told KoS that the system meant his community in Tonbridge would be significantly safer from flooding.

He said: "Communities will be better equipped to deal with flooding as a result of the work the wardens are going to be able to do."

"We are able to communicate quickly and easily with the EA, meaning that there is a liaison point on the ground which can let them know exactly what is happening with regard to flooding and also allow residents to have their questions answered."

"During a period of flooding, I will be able to get information straight to residents and help make sure people are well prepared for any flooding which might occur."

"The speed which we can react at is key to ensuring that flooding doesn't do damage like it did last year and, with flood wardens in areas with high

risk, we can help protect communities."

The flood wardens who have been trained are volunteers, taking on the responsibility of helping to safeguard their communities in their spare time.

Mr Lewis works full-time as a security officer, but he says that his experience of the floods last year meant he wanted to help.

"During the winter floods last year I found myself shocked by the level of destruction," he said.

"The depths that the flood waters reached was staggering and it did so much damage to homes and everything which got in its path. It was a sensory experience walking around the flood sites, with the smells, the water everywhere and the noise."

"I just found myself wanting to help

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out and try to make sure that kind of situation wasn't repeated. Even though I do a full-time job, for me it is really important to help out."

However, Mr Wise told KoS that the public needed to take some of the responsibility for keeping safe.

He said: "There is a responsibility on individuals to take action and, while we will also do everything we can to help them, if they take certain actions then they stand a much better chance of ensuring the damage is lessened, if not avoided completely."

"The evidence from last winter was that in some communities who had prepared better and were more resilient, the floods had less of an impact than elsewhere in Kent."

"We do what we can to reduce flood risk, but we cannot eliminate it completely."

The issue of flooding is being taken seriously by Helen Grant, the Tory MP for Maidstone and The Weald – one of the areas affected most by last winter's floods.

She told KoS: "Having visited flood-affected areas on Boxing Day and the ensuing days, I saw how badly residents and businesses were affected and I resolved to do all I could to tackle the issue going forward."

Mrs Grant says that action has been taken to ensure that flooding on the scale of last year is not repeated.

She convened a round-table meeting in February at which an action plan was created to begin the process of dealing with flooding in the future. This week there has been another meeting to ensure that progress has been made.

She told KoS: "We came away with



SHORED UP: The Lampen Wall near the River Stour before and after repair work carried by the Environment Agency

a comprehensive action plan [from the first meeting] and I said at the time we should reconvene to review this at a suitable juncture.

"I feel sufficient time has passed for progress to have been made. As the winter approaches, I believe it is crucial to take stock of the situation and ensure we are as prepared as we can be for the possibility of further extreme weather events."

And she says that everyone who might be affected by flooding will get a say, with Mrs Grant pressing key stakeholders on what they have done to ensure flooding doesn't impact on the area in the same way.

"I am pressing key stakeholders on tangible measures taken since the last meeting to avoid a repeat of last year's devastation."

"Crucially, it will also help main-

tain a high profile for the flood issue in our region while we continue to lobby for investment."

And it would seem that investment, and also time, is what is needed for physical flood defences to be put in place.

Mr Wise told KoS that, although the EA had worked at full capacity over the year, new schemes had been put forward.

He said: "Our priority over the past year has been to ensure that all of the flood defences which were damaged in last year's extreme weather event have been repaired."

"However, we are also working hard to identify new schemes which could help with flood relief in the area and then examine their feasibility. We can then put these to Government to get funding for them."

"In Kent we have 65,000 homes at



risk of flooding. A total of 38,000 of these are currently protected, but that obviously leaves a number which are still in need of defences. Last year's flooding has obviously highlighted the need for new schemes."

Mrs Grant says that some of these schemes are progressing to Government, with funding streams already being lined up.

She said: "The Environment Agency submitted bids for two flood defence schemes on March 7. These included increasing the capacity of the existing Leigh Barrier and creating a new flood-storage area for the Lower Bult."

"Kent County Council has already pledged to find half of the funding for these schemes, providing the Government commits to the remaining in-

vestment. I met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs before the summer break.

"My objective was to ensure the person at the very top was fully aware of our plans, that we were working in the right direction and that we had central government support in principle for proposed flood defence schemes."

"He praised the co-ordinated effort we are making in Maidstone and The Weald and recognised that we were taking all the right steps in developing our flood protection proposals."

"I will be relaying the Secretary of State's comments at our meeting and speaking to new Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss to continue to fight for our flood-affected areas and those families still rebuilding their lives."

But, despite the positive message, back at Little Venice Caravan Park in Yalding, Ben Brackenborough is not so convinced.

"We are being told that things are happening, but more definitely needs to be done. It's good that things like the flood warning system are being introduced, but it will be better for the park when physical defences are in place to help stop floods."

"I understand these big schemes take time, but until they are introduced there will always be the threat of flooding hanging over us."

Mrs Grant agrees, telling KoS that something needs to be done now and stating that she will be making sure flooding is a big issue in Parliament until the problem has been tackled.

She said: "Flooding has blighted our communities for decades and it's vital that long-term solutions are sought."



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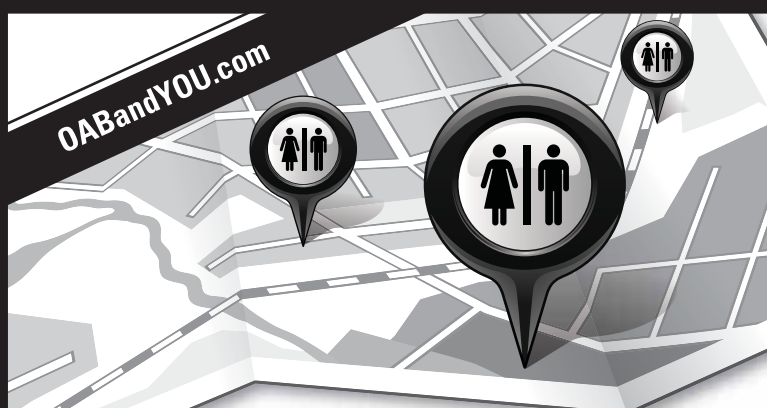
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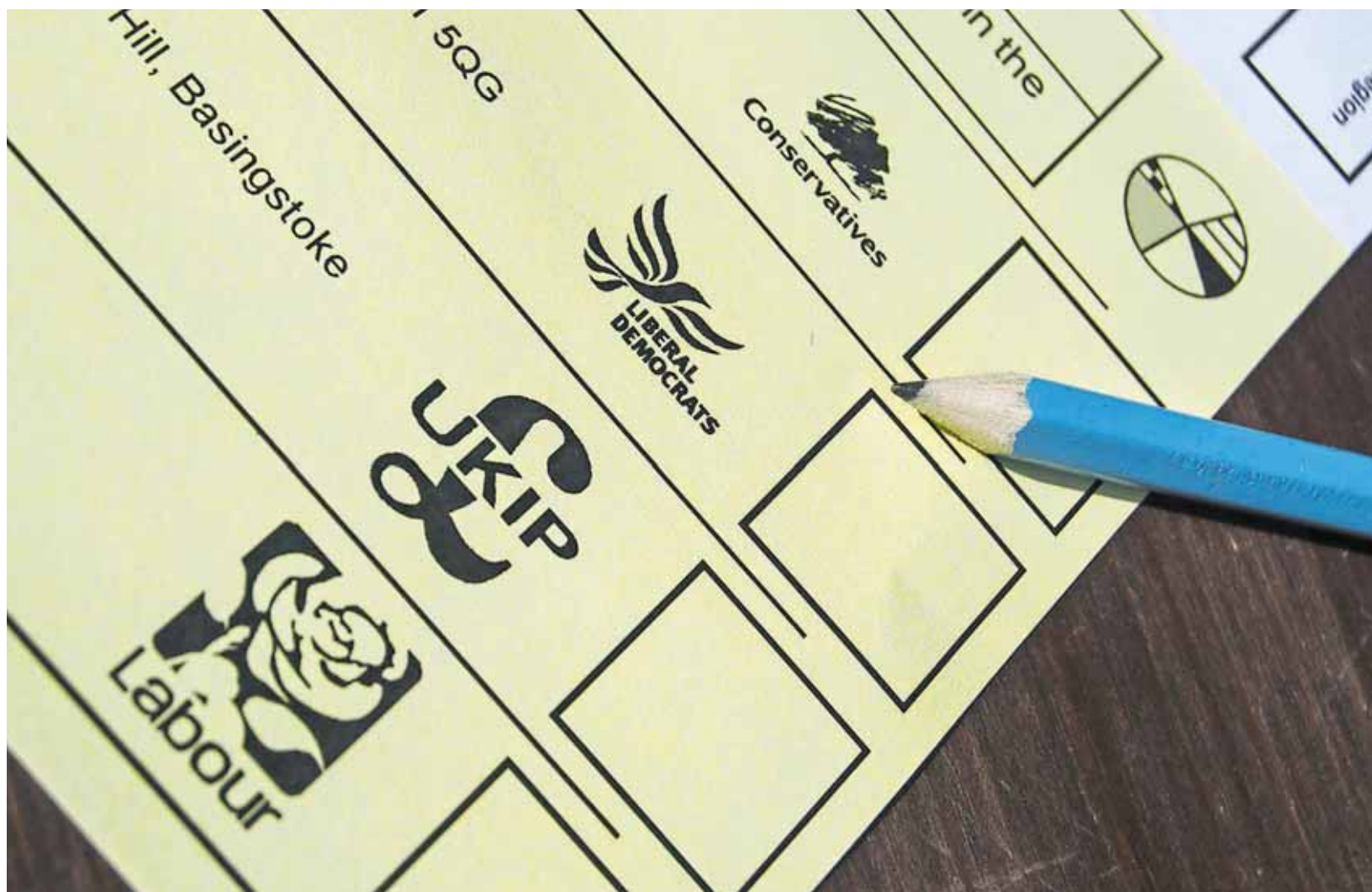
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After Carswell triumph, can Mark Reckless follow his pal back into House of Commons?

Sarah Linney talks to political pundits and looks at the latest state of the parties as Rochester and Strood prepares to go into battle after MP Mark Reckless defected from the Tories to join Ukip

THE last two weeks have not been fun for the Medway Tory party. In fact, they have been atrocious.

MP Mark Reckless leaving to join Ukip and calling a by-election was enough.

But with four more once-faithful Conservatives quitting in his wake – three of whom have followed him into the anti-Europe party – the Tories are beginning to look like they could inspire their own version of Ten Green Bottles.

The stance within the Tory party has been that those turning their back on the party at this politically sensitive time – we are, after all, just seven months away from a General Election – need their heads examined. Or, as Mayor of London Boris Johnson put it at last month's party conference that "Ukip defectors are the sort of people

that have sex with vacuum cleaners".

Locally, Rochester and Strood Conservative chairman Andrew Mackness – who only learned of his MP's defection when he saw him stride on to the Ukip stage – has spent the last two weeks very publicly venting his spleen.

But, with a poll in the Mail on Sunday last weekend putting Mr Reckless ahead of the Conservatives by nine points in the constituency, the party may come to deeply regret not taking its right wing rivals seriously.

Richard Whitman, professor of politics and international relations at the University of Kent, says the European election results in May revealed a strong concentration of Ukip support in the constituency – meaning father-of-two Mr Reckless stands a good chance of re-election under a different colour.

"I do think he can win," Professor Whitman said.

"Based on the voting in the European elections, there's the prospect of a Ukip majority. There is a core of people there who are willing to go out and vote Ukip.

"I think the Tory agent will be very worried."

But he said that even though Mr Reckless was sitting on a 9,953 majority for the Tories over Labour, the result was very far from being in the bag.

"There are people who will vote for him because they consider him to be a good MP, but how far does that weigh against the people who would consider him a traitor?" Professor Whitman said.

"Those votes will go to the Tories anyway though – so how many votes Labour can pick up is the key.

"It will be interesting to see how

Ukip tailors its campaign in terms of the body of the electorate they feel they need to win over. I think they will need to win the Labour voters over, and we will get a good sense of that from what they are pressing in their election material.

"Reckless has to set himself up as the same candidate who people voted in before, showing them they didn't make a mistake, but press hard that he is a man of principle.

"That's a very powerful message to send when there's an anti-political class type of attitude – it makes him look a bit of a revolutionary."

The date for the Medway by-election is yet to be announced, as Medway Council has to wait for a writ from the government before it can set the wheels in motion, and Parliament



FUTURE MP? Mark Reckless is aiming to follow Ukipper Douglas Carswell

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is in recess until Monday for the conference season.

However, it is expected to be next month – and John Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, says Mr Reckless' performance could be pivotal in determining whether there are more defections.

"If Reckless wins, that will be a big test," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Labour could overturn his majority if he splits the vote, and if that happens a lot of Tories are not going to move because it's not worth it.

"Douglas Carswell changed everything when he said he would stand for re-election because he was changing parties [the former Clacton MP, a friend of Mr Reckless, moved from the Tories to Ukip last month]. But Mark Reckless, not Carswell, is going to be the really interesting by-election."

Having only been elected in 2010, it is easier for a charge of betrayal to be levelled against Mr Reckless than if he had decades of service as a constituency MP behind him, Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"A lot of Douglas Carswell's vote is a really personal vote. It will count against Reckless that he has only been there for one term and hasn't got that," he added.

"It depends on how the voters in Rochester think. You don't know what percentage of the vote is party faithful and what percentage Eurosceptic."

But he says the Tories also need to marshal every last ounce of campaigning zeal they possibly can if they want to win.

The party has not even selected a candidate yet, although it announced

it will be balloting all voters in the area as to who they believe she be the candidate.

"They need a candidate lickety-split, and the national party needs to come down on it hard," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Each cabinet member had to do two days' canvassing in the Newark by-election and they will have to do something similar."

Professor Whitman says Mr Reckless's decision to move will have directly influenced other Tories who were thinking of doing so.

"Reckless didn't have to resign - he could have remained an MP. He has done the honourable thing and decided to put himself in front of the electorate - which does him a lot of credit and shows political courage - but I think it has really caused people to take sides.

"It's a real Marmite decision - you have either got people saying it was the right thing to do or that he is a traitor to his party.

"Clearly there are a lot of people in

“ One of the reasons we are seeing people move to Ukip from the Tories in Kent is that there hasn't been a credible alternative to the Conservatives ”

Prof Richard Whitman,
on why Ukip is gaining support

the Tories who feel discontented and have thought about the move to Ukip, and this has triggered the decision for some of them.

"They think if an MP can do it and is willing to put himself up for re-election, then so can they."

And he says the moves are less an indicator of disloyalty and more about a changing political landscape.

"A lot of people are not members of political parties - it's a minority pursuit," Professor Whitman said.

"These are people who spend a lot of time thinking and agonising about politics and where they sit. Choosing a party is a very considered act and I think that those who have made the decision to shift are not people who are serially disloyal.

"One of the reasons why we are seeing people move to Ukip from the Tories in Kent is that there hasn't been a credible alternative to the Conservatives - if you are disaffected with the Tories you can't easily move to another party where you know you are going to be elected.

But now Ukip are picking up substantial support and becoming a credible alternative on the right.

"There's a dissatisfaction with incumbent politics - Labour constituencies are seeing defections from Labour to Ukip. It's equivalent to the 1980s rise of the SDP, taking people who are active politically and finding there's a new home for them."

And he says the party should be deeply worried at a national level.

"It should give David Cameron some sleepless nights," Professor Whitman said.

"It's a real bellwether for the Tory party that they are having such committed supporters leaving - and I

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think we will definitely see more defections.

"Loss of activists is a double whammy as you don't just get the defection, it's a loss of capability too in terms of going out campaigning."

He says that Mr Cameron's career is over unless he can get a handle on the issue.

"Cameron's problem is he has to win back three parts of the electorate: the people who have moved to Ukip, the people who are thinking of voting Ukip, and people who didn't vote for him in the last election.

"The stakes are high for him as the only way he can survive in national politics is to win a majority. Anything shy of that he'll face a leadership challenge. Ukip makes that really difficult, as safe Tory seats are not safe anymore if Ukip split the vote.

"If they have to form a coalition with Ukip, that will make their lives very difficult in terms of widening the splits within the Tory party on Europe."

Dr Fitzgibbon agrees. "David Cameron should be scared," he said.

"He seems to be playing into Ukip's hands, and responding to them rather than being proactive. Ukip say they will do something, so Cameron says the Tories will do something else, instead of saying here's where we stand and getting Nigel Farage to counter his positions.

"His conference speech was all about giving into the party's right wing, with tax cuts and his pledge to scrap the Human Rights Act. There is all this nonsense just to placate po-

tential defectors.

"I don't think it will work - I think it will backfire horribly. They are just scaring the middle ground away and giving into the Daily Mail and Daily Express."

He says the Tories are at risk of "imploding".

"The big problem is anti-elitism," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Labour and Tories are the same person. They all come from Oxbridge, and people can't identify with them. Cameron and Miliband don't look like real people, whereas Farage talks the language of the ordinary person and makes things easy for people to understand.

"Cameron has to get rid of all the Oxbridge types from his cabinet - which he tried to do, but every time he tries to do something new the

grassroots vote against him.

"The Tories have to please the grassroots or please ordinary people, and that's a fundamental problem with the Conservative Party and the reason why they didn't get a majority."

He says that despite the high-profile defections, Europe is not a crucial issue for most of the electorate.

"To people who care about Europe, it's the number one issue, but if you look at any opinion poll it is not in the top ten issues," he said.

"The vast majority of people are focused on the economy and unemployment. It depends where you are what the issues are: in Scotland it's the NHS, in London it's the cost of living, in the north east of England it's economic growth.

"The Tories are right to move hard on immigration, but it's difficult to square with their pro-business attitude as business is very pro-immigration."

And with the Lib Dems on just two per cent of the vote in Rochester and Strood in the Mail on Sunday poll, could we see them overtaken by Ukip nationally at the General Election?

"I think Ukip will eclipse the Lib Dems in vote share, but I don't know about seats," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Their vote is super-concentrated in specific areas where they have extremely strong local organisations."

"It's going to be tough for Ukip - but who would have thought that they would have had two sitting Tory MPs who would be willing to resign their seats and stand in by-elections?" Professor Whitman added.

"A lot of the rules of national politics are being remade. But if Ukip surpassed the Lib Dems I think it would be a cataclysmic moment for the Lib Dems."



'NO' HOLLOWAY

GRAVESEND MP Adam Holloway has categorically denied he is leaving the Tory party to join Ukip.

Rumours have been circulating about the former Gulf War soldier and journalist after his non-appearance at the party conference last week.

But when Kent on Sunday contacted him he was adamant in his denial.

"The more times you say it, the more people think, 'he would say that, wouldn't he?' " Mr Holloway said.

"But I am not going to join Ukip. We would end up having a Labour government, and I am more afraid of a Labour government than anything else.

"I am a Tory. Why would I join another party? It is very expensive to go to the Conservative Party conference, and I never go."



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The Spooky Quest takes place around the woodland walk while the Halloween Hunt involves clues from spooky characters around the castle estate.

Come dressed to scare for the daily fancy dress competition at 2pm near the maze with prizes for the best blood curdling outfit, while Spooky Stories with Raggedy Jack will entertain younger children in the playground area throughout the day.

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Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of Tuesday, October 21, 2014, your entry will not

be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital. Helpline telephone 0844 3572403.

Alternatively, enter by post to Leeds Castle Halloween Competition, Archant KOS Media, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP, including your answer, name, address, postcode and contact telephone number.

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Secondary education in good shape but the outlook may not be so fine

It's easy to paint a picture of our non-selective schools struggling, but the reality is that recent Ofsted reports have painted a far more encouraging picture. However, the future may not be so bright for all, as former head-teacher **Peter Read**, of Kent Independent Education Advice, explains his concerns.



OFSTED reports for 2013-14 confirm the overall superb outcome for secondary school inspections last year.

Kent and Medway saw a remarkable 77 per cent of these inspections rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding', against a national figure of just 67 per cent.

The downside is that there is a fear-some future ahead for many of Kent's non-selective schools in terms of Ofsted and GCSE performance, with changes in the Government measures of achievement.

Between them, 17 of Kent and Medway's 23 non-selective schools have been found 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in the past year.

Why is it that in a frenzy of debate about grammar schools, such positive outcomes for non-selective schools are so comprehensively ignored by some in the media and indeed by the local authorities?

Add in the grammar schools, and the figure rises to 79 per cent.

Combined with the performance at GCSE, which is regularly well above average, and one sees a secondary sector in apparently good shape at present, although changes to GCSE reporting over the past two years will cause a dramatic change in the fortunes of many non-selective schools.

The performance of schools through the key measure of five GCSEs at Grades A*-C including English and maths is a major and increasing influence over Ofsted grades, and the non-selective schools have worked incredibly hard to meet the benchmark of 40 per cent of their pupils achieving this level.

This is in spite of their losing more than 25 per cent of their ablest pupils to grammar schools, all of whom could be expected to achieve this level.

Over the years, these schools have developed tactics to boost their results

under the threat of a poor Ofsted and while it may well be that this was not for the direct benefit of the students, the schools have had no option but to work to Government targets.

The Ofsted 'Good' schools for 2013-14 are: Aylesford; Fulston Manor; Hartsdown; Hayesbrook; Herne Bay; Hugh Christie; Hillview Girls; Holmesdale; John Wallis; King Ethelbert; Longfield; Maplesdon Noakes; St Anselm's; and Sittingbourne Community; with St Gregory's being assessed 'Outstanding' in Kent; and Greenacre and Walderslade Girls in Medway.

Grammar schools have benefited from the closer relationship between exam performance, with five out of the seven inspected being 'Outstanding': Barton Court; Dover Girls; Maidstone; Simon Langton Boys; and Rainham Mark.

Already, there is evidence that many more of Kent's non-selective

schools have missed the 40 per cent benchmark for the 2014 GCSEs, apparently some by a large margin, as the Department for Education has sought a more "academic" interpretation of school performance.

I anticipate this effect will work through into Ofsted and we shall see a sharp decline in assessments for these schools.

Clearly, it pays for a school to have or to be able to attract able and motivated students in the new regime, as Government tries to force more children into more academic courses.

Sadly, we appear to be throwing away so many alternative strategies that have provided less able students with motivation and success.

It is hardly surprising that one secondary head-teacher described to me the future of this sector as 'apocalyptic'!

■ **For more on this topic, see Peter Read's website: www.kentadvice.co.uk**

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Board game delight as Monopoly trades up to a city version

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SPECIAL version of Monopoly – based around Canterbury – hits the shelves on Friday, after a special launch event in the city.

The cathedral city was one of a number of towns in the county give the chance to have a special version of the wheeling and dealing board game. And it was finally confirmed that Canterbury Cathedral is the top spot – replacing the highest priced place on the board normally occupied by plush Mayfair.

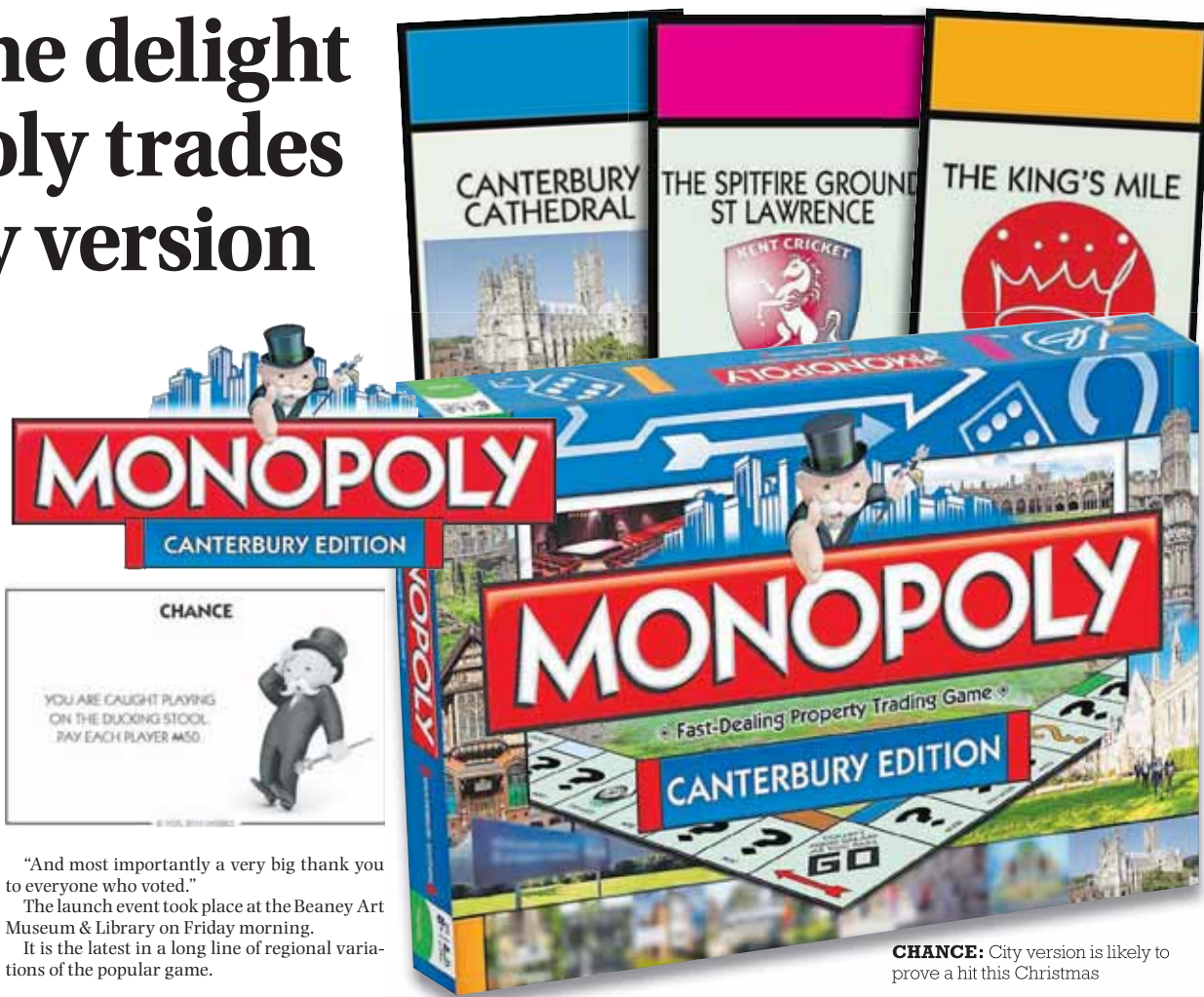
More than 7,500 voted, with Canterbury emerging triumphant, beating Tunbridge Wells into second place, and seeing off the likes of Maidstone and Dover.

After being selected, those living in the district were then given the option to nominate popular landmarks and streets to feature on the famous board.

Among those featured are the Spitfire, St Lawrence Ground – home of Kent cricket – and the Canterbury Tales attraction.

Robert Osborne, Monopoly manager at the board's makers, Winning Moves UK, said: "More than 2,000 landmarks, streets or roads could potentially have appeared on the board.

"Realistically around 200 were in the running so many congratulations to the 20 or so who have made it onto the board.



"And most importantly a very big thank you to everyone who voted."

The launch event took place at the Beane Art Museum & Library on Friday morning.

It is the latest in a long line of regional variations of the popular game.

CHANCE: City version is likely to prove a hit this Christmas

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The language that could open so many doors to a good career

The importance of China's economy and growing influence on world affairs is seeing more students learning Mandarin in a bid to open up employment opportunities. **Molly Kersey** investigates.

FOR many in the modern era, ensuring that you have the language skills to operate in an increasingly global marketplace can be the difference between success and failure.

And there is little doubt that the booming economy that is perhaps the most influential is that of China.

So what better way to get ahead than learn the language? After all, with more than one billion native speakers worldwide, it is now the single biggest global language.

All of which is motivating more and more schools to teach their youngsters Mandarin Chinese in a bid to give them a head-start in a fiercely competitive jobs market.

Dr Andrew Manning, director for the centre of English and world languages at the University of Kent, has noticed the increased popularity of the language.

He explains: "With the growth of the economy in China, the interest in learning Mandarin has increased.

"As it is the number one spoken language in the world, it's started to become on the radar of institutions."

Dr Manning said that a number of students who were studying international and business trade and related degrees had been keen to study Mandarin as an additional module.

"When they go out and they are looking for employment, it will assist them in that way. Students are looking to have more of a competitive edge when they leave university," he said.

"We offer courses in it now to both University of Kent students and members of the public."

Almost 200 students are now studying the language in one form or another.

The public King's School, in Canterbury, has also noticed a growing number of young people interested in learning the language.

Mandarin teacher Lixin Liu agrees that it can help with employment opportunities.

"Some parents really do think about the future for their kids and will encourage them to do this," she said.

"We started teaching it at King's in 2003. At the beginning we only had native speakers taking the subject. But by 2006 non-native speakers started to join in.

"The number is growing every year and it's really nice. It's a really beautiful language. It sounds so nice when it's spoken.

"I think from the nature of the language itself, because it's so different from Western languages, the pupils really like the challenge and they want to do something different."

Dr Manning agrees that students are less intimidated than they used to be.

"Over the last 10 to 15 years people's fear of



STRAIGHT TALKING

- Mandarin doesn't have an alphabet, it is instead written in symbols.
- The symbols are called Chinese characters and they represent the oldest writing system in the world.
- There are more than 100,000 characters, with more being developed all the time.
- Chinese grammar is surprisingly straightforward to learn as there is no need to conjugate verbs, master verb tenses, distinguish between singular and plural nouns and worry about gender-specific nouns.
- However, the language is tonal, which means that the pitch or intonation in which a sound is spoken affects its meaning.
- Mandarin has four tones, which means that for one given syllable or word there are four possible different meanings; for example, the word 'tang' with a high tone means soup but with a rising tone means sugar.

what might be perceived to be a more complex language, like Mandarin, has declined. There's a growing interest," he said.



LOOK EAST: Speaking Mandarin could give youngsters a head-start in the global economy

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RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired lady, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137

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SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

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34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if are in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579

LAURA happy size 12-14, attractive, loves shopping, gym, music, clubbing, eating in/out, looking for sincere honest male looking for more than just good fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410713

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

mydate24

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, legginess, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship, Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks female, 65-71 for friendship/companionship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 4110899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy nurse, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man. If that's you, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571

JANE tall leggy blonde size 12, nice/eyes, likes yoga, swimming, meals in/out, etc. WLMT nice tall male/dad with similar interests to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410487

WOULD you like to be my Valentine? Widow 68, seeking Valentine 68-70, likes most things, would like to share them with someone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410695

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

KATIE 21yr old very attractive female who is up for most things, looking for daytime fun, no strings and discreet pls. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410573

JEWISH widow, 67, loves animals, seeks genuine, Jewish gent, 68-73 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410547

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56in, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409683

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941



ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homebody, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234



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CASH MACHINE: The Marlowe Theatre at Canterbury line-up for this year – one of the most commercially successful pantomimes in Kent

Revenue generating magic of the traditional pantomime

THEATRES are normally a hub of cultured offerings; ballet, drama, comedy and music. Yet despite being a honey-pot for those seeking cultural enrichment, even the most ardent theatre-goer would admit that often the simple mechanics of getting 'bums on seats' can prove a challenge even to the most innovative marketing manager.

That is, of course, until it comes the crazy world of the pantomime.

Because in its anarchic mish-mash of drama, comedy, music, pratfalls, double entendre and audience call-and-response, lies a remarkable money-making production which can deliver such a cash injection its impact can be felt all year round.

"It's usually the best time of year," said Martin Dodd, director of UK Productions – one of the many pantomime production companies which put on the colourful extravaganzas.

Its efforts this year include bringing Peter Pan to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

He explains: "Throughout the year, theatres might have quite a

Summer's behind you – oh no it isn't... oh yes it is. And that means the countdown to the pantomime season is under way... **Molly Kersey** takes a look at some of the shows pulling in the punters and why it remains such an essential, and valuable, part of the theatre calendar

few busy weeks, but with panto you're doing two shows a day, six days a week, and usually you are doing good business on those. We certainly do in Tunbridge Wells.

“Through the dark days of the recession, which are hopefully behind us, panto held its own”

"That's bringing in an awful lot of people, and in many cases it can be people who have never been to the theatre before.

"Through the dark days of the recession, which are hopefully behind us, panto held its own.

"It's such great family entertainment and should appeal to every age group."

Paul Hendy and Emily Wood are a husband and wife team driving the successful Evolution Productions unit.

It is behind the traditional big-selling shows at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre as well as a host of other shows throughout the UK.

Former TV presenter-turned-theatre-director Mr Hendy explained: "For a lot of theatres it is their lifeblood. People come through the doors and pick up leaflets about what else is on."

Mrs Wood adds: "Even at the Marlowe, they admit the success of pantomime allows them to put on rather more diverse, and perhaps

less populist shows during the rest of the year; and having the bank buoyed by the panto they can do that."

Martin Dodd adds: "It can be a great way of introducing people to the joy of the theatre. We hear people saying they'd forgotten what it was like.

"There's nothing better than live entertainment, something that's completely unique, and with panto the audience is the extra actor.

"You talk to them, you break the fourth wall, you speak to them and you encourage them to speak to you.

"It's so much a part of the tradition of Christmas. But we can't

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SWINGING SIXTIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: US11-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 14 November, 2014

We have booked the entire Pontins Pakefield resort for this over 40s party break. Come with us to the seaside, near Lowestoft, and find out why guests return again and again to our exclusive, themed breaks. Celebrate the arrival of the festive season with original stars from the 60s.

INCLUDED: 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



SUPER 70s CHRISTMAS PARTY

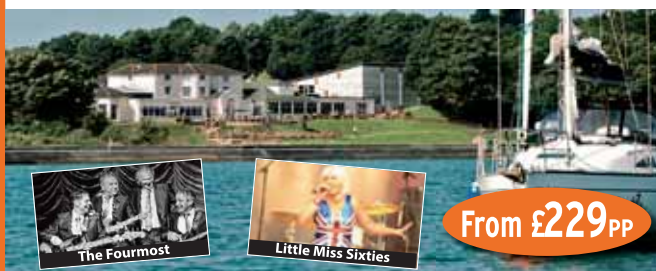
Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: MS11-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 21 November, 2015

Our Super 70s Christmas Party takes us back in time with some great some from the disco era. We've reserved the whole of Pontins Pakefield resort for this party which features an Abba Party and 70s cult hero Alvin Stardust live in concert. Enjoy the party spirit with Free Drinks and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts



SWINGING SIXTIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Warner Norton Grange Isle of Wight	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: SS11-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 28 November, 2014

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular private Christmas Party venue ever.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrades available
- Car ferry crossing worth £45



MAMMA MIA & SUPER 70s CARRY ON NEW YEAR PARTY & PANTO

Warner Bembridge Isle of Wight	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: BE1-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 9 January, 2015

Our private party extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane at our favourite Warner hotel. Enjoy a gala New Year's Eve party with countdown to midnight and great entertainment.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment + Panto
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - hotel upgrades available with rooms in main building from £259pp
- Car ferry crossing worth £45
- Add Come Dancing package with dance tuition, social dancing and a Gala New Year's Eve Ball for just £50pp extra



SWINGING SIXTIES SEASIDE PARTY

Warner Corton Suffolk Coast	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: CW2-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 6 February, 2015

Join us for a private party that takes a trip down memory lane at Warner Corton, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Fortunes, Union Gap and a Tribute to Frankie Valli, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrades available from £234pp



SPRING BACK TO THE SIXTIES PARTY

Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast	FREE DRINKS	OVER 40s ONLY	QUOTE: US3-KOS
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3 nights half board-plus • Friday 13 March, 2015

Join us for a private party that evokes the heady days of the 60s at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Tremeloes and the Swinging Blue Jeans as well as tributes to The Beatles and Buddy Holly, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrade available

« Continued from page 27

take it for granted, because people can always go somewhere else. The quality has got to be kept up.”

And a sure fire way of pulling in the punters is by recruiting a big name.

Kent has seen everyone from rapper Vanilla Ice to former Young Ones star Adrian Edmondson and original Star Trek cast member George Takei tread the boards for the annual knees-up.

There's plenty of demand too –

“We won't cast somebody just because they are top of the soap tree at the moment if they can't do it”

especially when the short run can net the big names tens of thousands of pounds.

The production of Peter Pan in Tunbridge Wells this year will see Holly City star Mark Moraghan (Owen Davis in the show) play Captain Hook, while CBBC presenter Gemma Hunt is Tinker Bell.

Mr Dodd says that no matter how well known they are, their performance needs to be up to scratch.

“We won't cast somebody just because they are top of the soap tree at the moment if they can't do it. Soap acting is very different to stage acting.

They have to be able to do it, get on stage and act, sing and



DIRECTOR:
Marin Dodd

fill a theatre space. As long as they can do that then it makes the show unique.

“We have had lots of people playing Captain Hook, it's normally the place where the star of the show goes, and we have had Captain Hooks of all different shapes and sizes.”

Following in the footsteps of EastEnders' star Samantha Womack at the Marlowe will be Scott Maslen, best known as Jack Branning in Albert Square.

He added: “Sam was full of praise for the theatre and the audiences. She also enjoyed living in Canterbury for the show's run, in fact, she highly recommended it all.”

After enjoying a sell out run in Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs two years ago, Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood will be Captain Hook in the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, as it too stages Peter Pan.

Elsewhere, the Theatre Royal in Margate features another ex EastEnders, Ricky Groves, in Beauty and the Beast, while Steps star Ian ‘H’ Watkins will be at the Hazlitt in Maidstone for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

He will be taking up the role of Prince Charming in the Christmas production.

The drive to start pushing tickets sales is beginning now – signs are it will be a hit again.

■ Tickets for pantomimes are booking now. Simply visit the venue's website to find out how.



HOOKED!: Craig Revel Horwood at one of the recent official launch events for pantomime's across the county

31st October - 2nd November

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X Factor winner's big date

FORMER X Factor winner Joe McElderry heads in to Maidstone as part of his 60-date UK tour next March.

The star, who won the 2009 TV talent show, will play the Hazlitt Theatre on March 8, 2015 with tickets available now.



Apple festival's tasty treat

CELEBRITY horticulturalist James Wong will be a star turn at the Brogdale Apple Festival which takes place this weekend.

Showcasing over 2,200 different apple varieties, it takes place at the home of the National Fruit Collection, on the outskirts of Faversham. Tickets cost £8 on the gate or £4 for children.

Circus with a difference

CIRCUS of Horrors, best known for reaching the finals of TV talent show Britain's Got Talent, comes to Kent for a string of shows over the coming months.

It performs in Folkestone, Chatham, Sevenoaks and Herne Bay.



Get creative at craft show

SEVENOAKS Contemporary Craft and Design Fair returns to Sevenoaks School later this month.

Organised by Craft in Focus, it brings together leading professional artists and designers from across the UK for an event running from October 24-26. A number of talented local craft experts will also be in attendance.



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Ramsgate Music Hall sold all its tickets for the Jungle Brothers gig within 36 hours... the band say they are keen to return

The day the New York hip-hop beat really put Thanet venue on the map

Review

By Dave Mairs

dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

I PROFESS to know little, if anything, about hip-hop, but after a rather special Friday night in Ramsgate I am a much wiser man in this sub-cultural arena.

The band were Jungle Brothers, a New York outfit who are part of Native Tongues, a collective of late hip-hop artists established in the 1980s and 90s, and the venue the Ramsgate Music Hall.

A quick flick through the

internet tells us that the Native Tongue musicians, who include hip-hop godfathers De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest, are "known for their positive-minded, good-natured Afrocentric lyrics and for pioneering the use of eclectic sampling and later jazz-influenced beats"... see, I told you I'm not versed in the ways of hip-hop.

That was clearly not the case across town, however, and the gig sold out within 36 hours of tickets going on sale.

There was a genuine buzz about the place as we waited for the boys – Mike Gee, Sammy B and Afrika Baby Bam – to appear on stage,

with some in the audience enthusiastically sharing their break-dancing talents on the floor.

And when the show did get under way, how well it was received. Crowded certainly, but never uncomfortable, the venue bounced to the beat.

A great atmosphere was enjoyed by everyone, not least the performers, who later decreed it the best gig of their UK tour and expressed a desire to return. Not some empty platitude yelled to an adoring audience but offered in all sincerity to the venue proprietors.

The gig did not last much over an hour – which came as a bit of a

surprise to this veteran of rock concerts – but no one seemed to mind and the crew had clearly given their all.

Indeed, as we relaxed with our drinks afterwards, the fellas came out and mingled with us, shaking hands with all and sundry.

It captured the tenor of a hugely enjoyable evening and those who missed out on this occasion would do well to catch Jungle Brothers, hopefully, next time round.

As for the lyrics, I didn't catch much beyond "Ramsgate!" and "Ramsgate Music Hall!". Remember the name... this is a place that's going places.

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Gallery welcomes diverse collection for autumn

Margate's Turner Contemporary names a star-studded line-up for new season

EVERYTHING from a special exhibition from a Turner Prize winner to images capturing a pioneering expedition across the icy wasteland of Antarctica, form part of the autumn events at the Turner Contemporary.

The hugely popular gallery unveiled a packed line-up of events, with the main draw a special exhibition and visit by Jeremy Deller.

He won the Turner Prize in 2004 for his film *Memory Bucket*. It documented both George W Bush's hometown of Crawford in Texas, and the infamous siege in nearby Waco.

Opening at the Margate gallery on

October 11, English Magic further explores Deller's ongoing interest in the diverse nature of British society: its people, myths and folklore as well as its broad cultural, socio-political and economic history.

It forms the final UK leg of a national tour which has run since January after the exhibition was commissioned by the British Council for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2013. The exhibition is accompanied by a series of talks and events.

One of which will see the artist joined by political commentator John Kampfner to discuss the topic of wealth to coincide with the exhibition and the release of Kampfner's



book *The Rich*. That discussion takes place on November 6.

On October 31, to coincide with the release of Mike Leigh's biopic of JWM Turner, Tim Wright, the artist who taught actor Timothy Spall how to paint like Turner, will discuss working on the film, along with Charlie Cobb who produced the

paintings for the film.

Meanwhile, Felicity Aston, from Birchington, the explorer who became the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica, will appear on November 4 to discuss her 36,000km expedition to north-east Siberia earlier this year. It will run alongside an exhibition, *Pole Cold*:

What Does Winter Mean to You?,

which runs until February. In addition, throughout the autumn programme, the gallery will show monthly screenings of films made by artists.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday and bank holidays, from 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.

Jam's Foxton rocks on

FROM The Jam rock into the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone in January on part of a four-date tour which also includes special guests Nine Below Zero.

The band, which features original bassist from The Jam, Bruce Foxton, will rip through a set featuring hits such as *Town Called Malice* and *Going Underground*, as well as favourites from Foxton's solo career.

The show takes place on January 23. Tickets are on sale now.

Enjoy Fawltly hospitality

ENJOY a meal quite unlike any you have experienced before as the legendary Basil Fawltly is your host at Dartford's Orchard Theatre on Friday.

The audience become part of the proceedings in *Fawltly Towers: The Dinner Show* as Basil, long-suffering wife Sybil and hapless waiter Manuel look to create comical mishaps and manic mayhem in a tribute to the famous 1970s TV comedy classic.

The show takes place on October 17.

From Monty with love

THE original Basil Fawltly - comedy legend John Cleese - will be in Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury in December; his first solo tour since the reformation and sell-out shows of Monty Python this summer.

The superstar will be performing at the Assembly Hall Theatre on December 19 and the Marlowe Theatre on December 15, showcasing his *So, Anyway* book.

Tickets include a copy of the book.

Walsh rolls into Hazlitt

COMEDIAN Seann Walsh will be calling in at Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre next month as he tours the UK with new show '28'.

It follows its sell-out debut at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The show takes its name from the comic's age and examines how he is coming to terms with living with his girlfriend and the realisation of adulthood.

The show takes place at the Hazlitt on November 30.

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Channel Island worth tuning in to

TRAVEL REVIEW: Guernsey

by Sarah Marshall

GUERNSEY has often been unfairly stereotyped as a holiday haunt for the blue rinse brigade, but given the wealth of action-packed activities on offer – including kayaking, cycle tours and jet ski safaris – its appeal extends to a much wider demographic.

Not that you necessarily need to be under 20 to leap from vertiginous knife-edges – just game for anything and young at heart.

With 41 miles of coastline to discover and an average 1,950 hours of sunshine per year, this scenic Channel Island is ideally suited to al fresco pursuits. And with the government-owned Aurigny airline offering a new jet plane service to the UK, cutting journey time by 20 minutes, its wildlife-filled bays and soft, sandy beaches will be within even easier reach.

Back on dry, solid land, I follow the cliff path around Herm, one of the smaller outer lying islands easily reached by a ferry from Guernsey's capital, St Peter Port. Puffins and cormorants nestle in rocky crags.

It's easy to see why families are attracted to the dune-lined beaches and sheltered coves, and I envy the 66 residents who get to enjoy the island's natural beauty long after the last ferry has chugged home.

A number of smaller islands off the shore of Guernsey can be visited on day trips, although one of the most exclusive, Brecqhou, is generally out of bounds. It's owned by the Barclay brothers, who have built a castle there, and can only be accessed by guests staying at their hotel on nearby Sark.

Given its favourable tax benefits,



BEAUTY SPOT: Guernsey's 41 miles of coastline is packed with wildlife-filled bays and soft, sandy beaches and is perfectly suited for al fresco pursuits

TRAVEL FACTS

SARAH Marshall was a guest of Visit Guernsey (www.visitguernsey.com). She stayed at the Duke Of Richmond Hotel (www.dukeofrichmond.com) where doubles start from £145 with breakfast.

Aurigny (www.aurigny.com) now operate a jet plane on their Gatwick to Guernsey route from £39 one way.

granted in exchange for pledging allegiance to the UK. Guernsey has attracted many millionaires. But a strict limit on housing means not everyone can build their dream home here.

Only 14 per cent of the island is developed, local guide and resident Elizabeth Gardener-Wheeler tells me, and of the 26,000 houses available, only 1,600 can be owned by non-islanders. The result is a tight-knit community, where crime is almost non-existent.

There's an innocence and naivety about Guernsey that's even a little bit

utopian: a reminder of what village life in England might have been like before towns spiralled into cities and neighbours became strangers.

Much of the camaraderie here stems from the island's well documented period of occupation during the Second World War. Liberation Day on May 9 is a major celebration and, next year, islanders will commemorate the 70th anniversary since German forces retreated after five years of invasion.

There are gentle reminders of the Nazi years in surprising places, such as symbols painted on bus shelters

and rusted barbed wire twisting above garden walls.

German tourists often come to find out about their family history, visiting the German Occupation Museum in Les Houards, where historical artefacts are displayed alongside personal letters and photo albums. Some detail the relationships and later marriages between islanders and German soldiers; an indication that there was some love amongst the war during this period.

This island ticks along at a such a wonderfully nostalgic pace it is hard to not be enchanted.

Film Reviews



GONE GIRL
(18, 149 mins) Thriller/Romance
Release date: Now

IGNORANCE is bliss when it comes to *Gone Girl*.

If you haven't read Gillian Flynn's 2012 psychological thriller and you know nothing of the serpentine twists that propelled the novel to the top of the bestsellers list then jealously guard your cluelessness.

There's an undeniable delight watching Flynn wrong-foot us with this spiky satire on media manipulation and the glossy facade of

celebrity marriages.

When the central characters promise to love, honour and obey, till death do them part, one of them takes that vow very seriously.

Admittedly, you have to dig deep beneath the surface of David Fincher's polished film to find the jet black humour but it's there, walking hand-in-hand with sadism and torture that propel the narrative towards its unconventional denouement.

Rating: 7.5/10

DOLPHIN TALE 2
(U, 107 mins) Family/Drama/Romance
Release date: Now

RELEASED in 2011, *Dolphin Tale* fictionalised the incredible true story of a bottlenose called Winter, who was snared in a crab trap in Florida and lost her tail.

The plucky mammal was rushed to nearby Clearwater Marine Hospital where dedicated staff rehabilitated Winter by fitting her

with a silicon and plastic tail similar to prosthetics worn by human amputees.

The dolphin's remarkable recovery and her subsequent celebrity have ensured a steady stream of visitors to Clearwater, where Winter now shares a tank with another bottlenose called Hope.

Filmmaker Charles Martin Smith, who captained the original film, clearly fell in love with Winter because he writes and directs this uplifting yet wholly unnecessary sequel.

Young audiences will happily wade through pools of sugary sentiment in order to enjoy heart-warming scenes with the dolphins and a stranded sea turtle christened Mavis.

Parents, however, won't find a great deal to buoy their interest besides footage during the end credits of two real-life rescues that inspired Smith's flimsy script.

Rating: 5/10



DRACULA UNTOLD
(15, 92 mins) Action/Horror/Thriller/Romance
Release date: Now

HOARY horror hokum sinks its fangs into 15th century east European history in a dark and brooding resurrection of the bloodsucking monster from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel.

Screenwriters Matt Sazama and

Burk Sharpless follow Stoker's lead and draw a direct correlation between the vampire and Vlad II from the Romanian house of Dracula, posthumously named Vlad The Impaler.

Consequently, the notorious warrior, who skewered his victims, is reborn as the eponymous creature of the night, replete with an aversion to sunlight and silver.

Dracula Untold doesn't greatly enrich the vampire mythology, which has been embellished for more than 100 years, and the script can't resist the occasional camp nod and wink, like a snivelling servant called Shkelgim (Zach McGowan), who promises to do Dracula's bidding and hisses, "Yesss massster," as he slinks into the shadows.

Humour is drained almost entirely from the film's arteries.

You may take some convincing to believe the world needs this *Dracula*.

Rating 5/10

Sometimes even a dragon should smile

Royal Dragon

Location: Birchington

By David Mairs

IT'S something you find more and more frequently at restaurants: a pair of glasses to help you read the menu when you've forgotten them or perhaps simply chosen to not take them out. Spectacles, after all, can present a problem to the vainer types among us.

So when I asked the lady serving us at the Royal Dragon restaurant in Birchington for said glasses, her tenor caught me by surprise.

"No, sorry," she said, with a tone that was very far from sorry. Indeed, I was some kind of loon for having asked such a ridiculous question.

At the time I thought little of it, but as the evening wore on it became apparent that this was not going to be a review including the words "Great service".

We felt hurried throughout, with the same lady trying to whisk away some of our dishes before we had even finished them. Her demeanour never lifted above functional and periodically dropped to sullen.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of it all was the fact that previously I have found Chinese restaurants to be among the most welcoming of all eateries.

A swift referral to the ever-handly TripAdvisor website confirmed that other people had experienced problems with service here, although I would be dishonest if I didn't also mention the number of rave reviews it had received.

A healthy number of diners awarded it the maximum five stars, a few of them even declaring it the best Chinese in Thanet.



Well, even disregarding the less than uplifting manner of the woman serving us, I wouldn't go that far, although neither would I say it was the worst.

Things started well with the mixed hors d'oeuvres (chicken satay, seaweed, spare ribs, prawn toast and crispy spring rolls), which were excellent, especially the prawn toast.

The crispy aromatic duck that was followed lived up to its billing as an old favourite, although it could have been hotter, while the portion was on the light side.

Hungry, we ordered four main dishes between us. Sadly, one of these was taken wrongly and so we

ended up with three beef dishes rather than the two we had chosen. Not ones to make a fuss, we didn't feel vexed enough to complain.

Of the dishes we did have, the king-prawn curry was far and away the best. Spiced to perfection and with an excellent texture – neither runny nor 'loopy' – it will, I'm sure, be drawing me back to try the take-away version.

The beef with ginger and spring onions and beef with peppers and black-bean sauce were standard but no more, while the Szechuan beef simply didn't do it for me. Perhaps with a pair of glasses, I would have

noticed the "sweet spicy" description and not selected it. Nobody's fault but mine, as Led Zeppelin might have said.

A bill around the £75 mark included wine and was much as we had expected... no complaints there.

We wrapped up with coffees but got the distinct impression that we had overstayed our welcome. It was time to go.

■ Royal Dragon
8 Station Road
Birchington
CT7 9DQ
Phone: 01843 840888
Web: www.royaldragon.co.uk

Advertiser's Announcement

Raise a glass to celebrate the very first Swanley Beer Festival



GET ready to toast the success of the inaugural outing of a key new date on the beer lover's calendar later this month.

The first ever Swanley Beer Festival will take place on October 24-26.

Staged at the Alexandra Suite in St Mary's Road - which is now taking bookings for Christmas - visitors will be able to sample and enjoy 12 real ales from local breweries alongside six ciders.

The real ales will range from light golden session ales to rich ruby ales. There will even be a very special Halloween Ale.

The Alexandra bar will also be open for those who would rather have a lager or soft drink making it ideal for families to join in the

fun with a special family day on the Sunday.

There will be a variety of live music being played over the three days including performances from The Edelweiss All Stars (pictured), Juke Box Jam, The Unknown, Mandy & The Phil Chaplin Band and Hobo and The Hippies.

The entry fee is £3 and souvenir glasses of the event will be available.

A variety of reasonably priced food will be available every day.

Opening times are:

October 24 - 6pm until 11pm.

October 25 - noon until 11pm.

October 26 - noon until 6pm.

Postcode for the event is BR8 8BU. For more details contact Toni on 01322 613900.

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WHEN you conjure up an image of a classic cosy restaurant to be the perfect location for a memorable festive event, then the Red Lion surely ticks all the boxes.

Situated four miles outside Faversham in the small village of Hernhill, the Red Lion is a 14th century inn, with a rustically wonderful interior of flagstones and beams.

To the side is a large garden with a children's play area and a car park.

In the colder months you can sit in front of our log fire.

Upstairs is the new beautiful beamed Champagne Bar and function room available for functions and meetings.

And for just £28.95 a head, you can book your Christmas party now.

You can choose from the set menu from a range of starters, mains and desserts including honey roasted parsnip and rosemary soup starters, bronze turkey from Canterbury served with potatoes roasted in dripping and all the trimmings and delicious desserts including Christ-

mas pudding served with a brandy sauce and individual Baileys and chocolate truffles and much much more.

What's more, if you book a party of 10 the organiser's meal is free.

All we ask, if you've booking 10 of more, is for a small £10 per head non-returnable deposit shortly after making the reservation. There's also a discretionary 10 per cent service charge included in the total cost for group bookings.

There is a selection of cask ales and keg beers and cider to suit all, plus good wines and soft drinks.

Food is served every lunchtime and evening - except Christmas Day.

The food is home cooked, tasty and plentiful, and you can choose from the main menu or from the specials.

Lunchtime snacks are available, for those wanting a smaller meal, everyday except on Sunday when roasts of pork, beef and lamb, are on the menu.

The Red Lion is in Crockham Lane, Hernhill, ME13 9JR, phone 01227 751207, or web www.theredlion.org.



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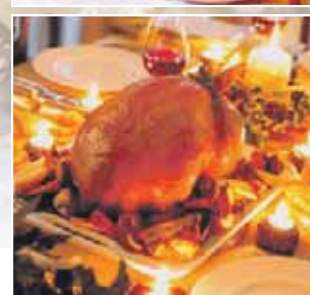
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01227 751207



Book now... for Christmas

Carve up the perfect festive 'do' at the Tudor Rose restaurant

THE Tudor Rose is a family run restaurant, carvery and bar in Sittingbourne – an the perfect location for you special festive event.

It serves food daily, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday it serves food all day.

It has a large function room that can be used for all occasions and can cater to suit all your individual catering needs.

From a hot and cold finger food buffet to a sit down meal or knife and fork buffet including dressed salmons, fresh home-made salads and carved cold meats and mixed cheeses.

The carvery is open Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday from noon-5.30pm. It offers two courses for £12.95 or three courses for £16.95. It serves up honey glazed gammon, roast pork, roast turkey or roast beef. Diners can try up to all four meats and help themselves to fresh vegetables and all the trimmings.

The a la carte menu aims to provide something for everybody, with a specials range which includes a host of treats.

Book your Christmas party at the carvery - call 01795 842575.



Thorley Taverns are the best place to get the party going!

CHRISTMAS is a great excuse for a party with your friends and family – and Thorley Taverns are the best places to celebrate.

They have the perfect venue for your festive feast at their great inns and hotels in Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

In Broadstairs, the Captain Digby family pub and restaurant overlooks romantic Kingsgate Bay.

It dates back to the 1760s and is named after a nephew of Lord Holland.

The Pavilion in Harbour Street has an enviable situation on picturesque Viking Bay and has hosted many fantastic parties.

Just round the corner is The Tartar Frigate, renowned for its seafood, with a roaring fire in the bar to welcome you in from winter's blast.

A few minutes away in Victoria Parade is The Charles Dickens, named after Broadstairs's most famous resident and which was completely refurbished last year.

Its Copperfields restaurant upstairs has commanding views of the bay.

In Ramsgate you are also spoilt for choice... between the Pegwell Bay Hotel and The Oak Hotel & Restaurant 66.

The Pegwell Bay Hotel, near Ramsgate and overlooking Pegwell Bay, won the Pride of Thanet award in 2011.

It has everything you need for a perfect Christmas party, including dinner and dancing and the option of an overnight stay.

The Oak Hotel & Restaurant 66 is in the



heart of Ramsgate and overlooks the Royal Harbour.

Again, you can stay overnight and have a dance if your party has a minimum of 30 people.

As you would expect from Thorley Taverns, all food is top-notch and incredible value for money, with prices starting from as little as £19.95 a head for a three-course meal including starter, traditional roast, fish or vegetarian option and pudding.

For more details, contact each venue. Book now to avoid disappointment!

■ Thorley Taverns: www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

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The a la carte menu aims to provide something for everybody, at lunch we offer our full menu plus lighter lunches including ploughmans and sandwiches and in the evening our full menu plus specials ranges from traditional fish and chips to crispy belly of pork on ham and leek mash with a cider and mustard jus.

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- ★ The Charles Dickens Broadstairs **01843 603040**

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And with party prices starting from just £4.99 per person, you're guaranteed a good time.

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Finish off with a great range of desserts. Kids eat for £4.99.

Our Christmas Day menu is just £35.99 per person, there



are some delicious starters to choose from, as well as British turkey and honey roast ham, sirloin steak and oven roasted cod loin. Enjoy traditional Christmas pudding, Black Forest gateau and warm lemon drizzle cake for afters. Kids eat for just £9.99 (under

10s) on Christmas Day.

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Wedding Fayre: Sunday, October 12, 11am-3pm

Meet the dedicated wedding coordinators and also local suppliers offering inspirational ideas. Amazing venue discounts available on the day.

Children's Halloween Party: Friday, October 31, midday to 3pm

Bring the kids along for an afternoon of fun, with Funky Footsteps entertaining all the children with dancing and party games. £10 per child aged three to 14.

Howling Halloween Party: Saturday, November 1, 7.30pm-0.30am

This is one for the adults! Enter the old



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Wedding Fayre – Sunday 12 October – 11.00am - 3.00pm

Meet the dedicated wedding coordinators and also local suppliers offering inspirational ideas. Amazing venue discounts available on the day

Children's Halloween Party – Friday 31 October – 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Bring the kids along for an afternoon of fun with 'Funky Footsteps' entertaining all the children with dancing and party games. £10.00 per child aged 3-14.

Howling Halloween Party – Saturday 1 November – 7.30pm - 00.30am

This is one for the adults! Enter the old Victorian house this Halloween for a great evening of spooky fun. A 2-course hot buffet, Halloween performance and disco for just £23.95 per person.

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t: 01622 620720 e: info@oakwoodhousehotel.co.uk w: www.oakwoodhousehotel.co.uk

Book now... for Christmas

The Monster Christmas Ball just keeps getting bigger and better

THE Monster Christmas Ball, now in its fifth year, is taking bookings for the 2014 Christmas party season.

One all-inclusive ticket price includes arrival drinks, Christmas dinner, wine with your meal and a full evening's entertainment including live music, DJ and the Monster Christmas Ball Casino.

All is set within a purpose-built Christmas venue that is available for large group bookings and shared party nights.

Shared group and exclusive large group bookings are available, making the Monster Christmas Ball the ideal destination for your Christmas party this season.

Check the website for full event information or to view our Christmas menu and check details of exclusive travel deals to and from the venue that we have negotiated with our travel partner.

The event is held at The Faversham Showground, which is conveniently located just off the A2/M2/A299 junction, with free parking on site.

■ The event runs from December 12-20; up-to-date availability can be checked online at www.kentchristmasparty.com or by phoning 01227 701042



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IT'S difficult to think of anywhere better to hold your Christmas party than at Mercure Maidstone, Great Danes Hotel.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Writers' opinions give me road rage

REGULARLY on these pages, I read letters from people who seem to believe the rights of the motorist should trump all others.

They believe speed limits are minimum guidelines, speed cameras the eyes of the devil, and any pedestrian who gets under the wheels of a car got there through their own inability to judge road conditions properly.

Yet, I suspect, they are the same people who like to drive their BMW or Audi about an inch away from the back of everyone's car when they believe they have some God-given right to race along at a crazy speed, or, indeed, to gesticulate wildly at something they don't quite agree with when it comes to driving styles.

So I simply wanted to say this: you may believe that by shouting loudly you trick us all into thinking you are 'in the right' or have more say over anybody else, but the reality is the quiet majority think your constant bleating is... well, a little tragic.

So perhaps keep your opinions to yourself next time.

Gerry Cross, Sittingbourne

Gloag puts profit ahead of our loss

WHAT a result for Ann Gloag Manston has become. Buy it for £1 and less than a year later sell it for an estimated £24 million.

Say what you like about her, that reputation for having a strong business brain is clearly not dimming due to age.

If only she could have turned that skill on making it a viable airport, she would have made her name. And this time for all the right reasons.

Tom Knight, Ramsgate

Manston rail line route to salvation?

IT was with great sadness that I read in a recent edition of KoS the proposed industrial park on the Manston site.

I feel a big opportunity was missed on Grant Shapps recent visit to press the case for the Parkway station as part of the case for Manston.

If Kent County Council had been further ahead with their plans, even before Mrs Gloag bought the airport, where would we be now?

I have not seen any mention of the station since the leadership of Thanet council changed.

Living in Gravesend, if we are flying

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Politicians paralysed by Tony Blair's legacy

WHILE I don't doubt the current decision to attack Islamic State targets is as a consequence of years of turning a blind eye and hoping it will all go away ('Iraqi troubles were there for all to see' – KoS, Letters, last week), it is surely better we are doing something now rather than nothing at all?

This country has become paralysed in case any prime minister repeats the perceived error of Tony Blair and makes a decision over a war which forever obscures all the good they did while in office.

We cannot be like that forever. We cannot allow our politicians'

desire for a future on the after-dinner circuit and a controversy-free legacy, prevent us from ever assisting those in trouble elsewhere in the world.

Recently there was such a debate over what makes Great Britain so great – in the light of the devolution debate in Scotland – yet increasingly we seem to be a nation which is scared to make a move, led by politicians terrified at what taking us to war could do for their chances in the next election.

That isn't leadership and it's not what makes us great.

L Taylor, Tonbridge

abroad we prefer to fly from Gatwick instead of Heathrow, due to access, including the Gatwick Express rail service.

I have always been pro Manston subject to rail access being there.

I believe the proposed Parkway station would have been close to Manston – closer than Lydd to Ashford for example.

The freight option seemed to be a good alternative, which when it proved itself, could have expanded to include passengers.

Look at what Stobarts have done with London Southend Airport since they have taken over. I appreciate Southend was further ahead than Manston in providing flight options and I presume the airport is reasonably close to the railway.

We were excited when Mrs Gloag took over knowing she was a successful business woman, so we didn't look too closely at how she built up her Stagecoach business

otherwise we may have guessed at her long-term plan for profit ahead of improving local transport links for east Kent, which everyone would agree is a relatively deprived part of Kent.

Gerald Carr, Gravesend

Not last we've seen of our Bake Off star

I WAS so sorry to see Chetna Makan, from Broadstairs, fail to make the final of BBC's Great British Bake Off, as I so desperately wanted her to win.

She was the most unflappable of all the bakers. She never panicked when the pressure was on because she always seemed so well organised whenever completing any of the challenges set by the judges.

Like the other bakers in the series, she has a great future and is certain to go far with her considerable talent and ability.

Her children must be very proud of her indeed.

Rosie Johnston, Ightham

Get back to where you don't belong

AH, dear old Phil Granger from West Malling (KoS, Letters, last week).

If ever we need a healthy dollop of Ukip-inspired sabre-rattling about immigration we can always rely on him to remind us of why we should all be rounding them up and dumping them back in France, regardless of whether they are here to fill the jobs left vacant by lazy British workers or seeking asylum.

Well, just remember Phil, if you ever decide to emigrate to Australia or the Costa del Sol, you'll be just like them.

However, I'm not too sure if you could see the difference.

Kevin Butcher, Maidstone

Call to help those who gave for us

ON Sunday, November 9, throughout the country, there will be Remembrance Sunday wreath-laying ceremonies at which those gathered together will say "we will remember them".

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal leads up to that in asking that we all support the members of our Armed Forces who are injured and traumatised in many conflicts throughout the world, in the service of their country.

The welfare services this year have seen more than £1.7million a week spent on a variety of services, from helping a young widow through an inquest to ensuring that an older veteran can stay independent in their own home.

In this, the centenary year of the outbreak of the First World War, we are ever mindful of the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces and the demands on these services are as important now as they were then.

Through the pages of Kent on Sunday, may I ask your readers to be as supportive and generous as they have been in the past and that any (aged 16 or over) who may be able to spare an hour or two collecting for the appeal visit the website at volunteersupportbritishlegion.org.uk.

Your support will, as always, be gratefully received.

Please help to make the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal the action that embodies the words "we will remember them".

Julian Stanyer, Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Grove Ferry, near Canterbury

by **Thomas Webzell**
of **Minster**

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VAUXHALL

By Matt Joy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Peugeot 508 SW Allure Blue HDi

Price: £26,695

Engine: 2.0-litre unit producing 150 bhp and 273lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 130mph, 0-62mph in 10.1 secs

Economy: 67.3mpg combined

Emissions: 110g/km of CO2

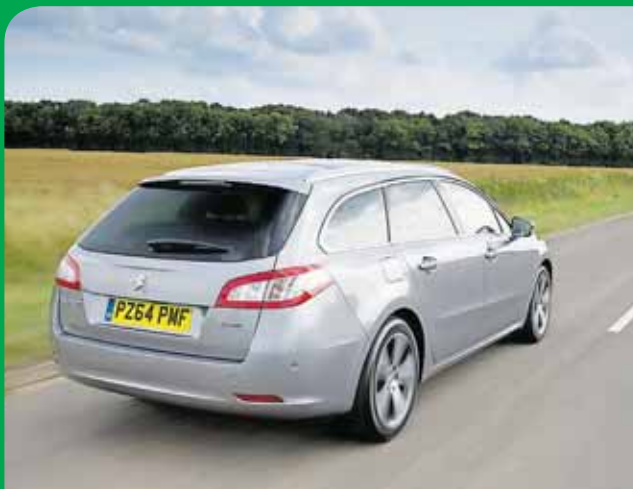
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LOOKING GOOD: Peugeot's 508 has undergone a remake, inside and out, producing an all-round better car packed with the latest technology

Facelift adds glamour to 508

Peugeot's mid-size 508 has been updated for 2014 with a sharp new look, cleaner engines and improved technology

THERE was very little wrong with the 508 to start with, but such are the demands of competition Peugeot has fettled it inside and out in order to help keep pace with its key rivals.

On the outside there are several changes front and rear although the bulk of the car remains as before, while on the inside the outdated central display has been replaced with the touchscreen system already seen on other Peugeots.

There's some new options available too such as a reversing camera and blind spot detection, while keyless entry and start is standard on all but the entry level Allure model. The revised 508 also benefits from the latest 2.0-litre Blue HDi diesel unit which promises exceptional economy and emissions.

The first thing you'll notice is the 508's new nose. It's much more prominent and bolder than before, giving it a chiselled look that

boosts its presence.

For what is a modestly-priced large family car the 508 certainly turned heads. The bonnet is also subtly tweaked and all versions get new headlights, with the higher-spec models gaining all-LED versions that add to the looks.

Although the new 508 is a fraction longer, interior space remains the same, but this is no bad thing. This is a family car through and through, and however lanky your teenagers are they won't be able to complain at the space in the back. Even if you specify the appealing full-length glass roof, headroom is still very good, while the boot on this SW version is vast; and there's an electric tailgate too.

Although much of the 508's

cabin remains as before, the key change is the switch to the latest touchscreen system to look after the climate control, telephone and audio inputs. With key button shortcuts also on the fascia it's easy to navigate around.

The driving position is good too, with the steering wheel also carrying controls for easy operation.

Although there's a wealth of engine options, the 2.0-litre Blue HDi option is comfortably the ideal choice. Performance is sufficiently brisk for a car this size and the six-speed manual option needs little effort, but it's the economy and emissions that really impress; with almost 70mpg on offer the 508 has the potential to cover over 500 miles on a single tank of fuel.

The standard specification even

on the entry-level Active model is impressive: satellite navigation, dual-zone climate control and 18-inch alloy wheels are all thrown in for the £23,245 starting price on the SW model. This Allure model adds front parking sensors, that full-length glass roof and keyless entry as well as a reversing camera and gives you the option of the Blue HDi diesel unit.

If you have family then the 508 is going to be right up your street, particularly in SW form. There's stacks of space for passengers and luggage and the panoramic roof makes the cabin a much more pleasant space to be sat in.

The bonus is that it should be relatively cheap to run and comfortable enough to cope with long journeys easily.

13 Plate
Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr



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BACK AND FORTH: This entry-level GS300h is extremely well-priced for the amount of car you get, with a host of gadgets plus an exceptional hybrid engine

Lexus' smooth operator



Lexus GS300h SE

Price: £31,495

Engine: 2.5-litre petrol-electric hybrid system producing 220bhp

Transmission: CVT continually variable transmission driving the rear wheels

Performance: Top speed 119mph, 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds

Economy: 60.1mpg (SE only)

Emissions: 109g/km (SE only)

Lexus has unveiled its new secret weapon in the executive saloon market 'sweet spot'. With full hybrid technology, the GS300h offers big tax advantages over diesel rivals which is sure to prove popular with buyers, writes **Matt Kimberley**

WHATEVER your past or present opinion of the brand, this is a very shrewd move from Lexus.

Toyota Motor Corporation has been selling hybrid cars for 16 years, now, and while the Toyota brand has mopped up the volume hybrid vehicle sales, the upmarket Lexus cars have saved the hybrid running gear for its flagship models.

Rightly so, if you ask me.

The system is so well developed at this point that commuting in a Lexus Hybrid is a seamless, quiet, smooth and relaxing experience that the brand could be forgiven for reserving for its best cars.

But this is the shrewd bit. There's an entry-level Lexus GS hybrid variant called the GS300h, and what's more it comes in its latest, more affordable, SE trim package.

But before you dismiss it as a

low-rent option, for an extremely reasonable £31,495 – remember, it's a Lexus hybrid – you get 220bhp, 10 airbags, 10-way adjustable electric front seats, electric steering wheel adjustment, DAB radio, a 12-speaker surround sound audio system, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control and xenon headlights.

Wowzers. And that's before you start thinking about the intrinsic benefits of the hybrid system, like 109g/km emissions on this model, which gives potentially huge benefit in kind tax relief compared to diesel rivals.

In its media release that came with the car, Lexus quotes the new GS as being as much as £7,302 cheaper in benefit in kind tax over three years, when compared to the BMW Active Hybrid 5. The proven reliability of the Lexus hybrid system also counts in its long-term favour.

The system used here is a familiar

one, much the same as the one in the IS300h, albeit with a relocated battery and slightly altered gearing for the heavier GS. It can power the car for short distances on electric power alone, and if used correctly in town it can record over 50mpg. It takes finesse, but it's not actually that difficult.

A 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine doesn't quite cut in and out with the silky interchange of the six-cylinder hybrid models, but it's still exceptionally refined even among similar hybrid cars, and it's light years ahead of the comparatively clattery diesels out there. Lexus has been doing this long enough to know how to get it right.

All the other important Lexus stuff is there, too, like large, comfortable seats with good back support and supple suspension that, on the SE version, won't win any handling awards but will keep you more

comfortable than just about anything else in the sector.

Build quality is everything it should be, and with customers consistently rating Lexus as one of, if not the best manufacturer out there for customer service and ownership satisfaction, this new package has a stupendous amount going for it.

Negatives? Well, the CVT gearbox is fantastic for efficiency and emissions but not so much for outright driving pleasure. Putting your foot down brings an annoying and constant background drone until you release some accelerator pressure and the revs drop. It's not a big deal unless your right foot is somewhat heavier than it could be.

In short, the GS300h, especially in SE trim, is an extremely canny buy. The batteries are designed to last the life of the car, it's extremely comfortable and the standard technology is outstanding.

Its emissions and tax banding are the icing on the cake. As a car it's excellent, but as a financial proposition it's even better.



Long-distance VW

VOLKSWAGEN has expanded its efforts in the field of plug-in hybrid cars, revealing an electrified Passat in both saloon and estate guises.

Its official average fuel consumption is 141mpg, although this will vary according to use. A short-distance driver may almost never use the petrol engine and could achieve hundreds of miles per gallon.

Without refuelling or stopping to charge the batteries, the Passat GTE can rack up a range of 620 miles from its 50-litre petrol tank.



New-look for 2015

HONDA has used the Paris Motor Show to unveil two new models appealing to quite different segments of its loyal customer base.

At one end it revealed the Honda Jazz prototype, a preview of the production Jazz that will reach the UK in 2015. It also showed a concept version of the Civic Type-R, also due to go on sale in 2015.

Combined with a facelifted Civic and a revised CR-V model, the Japanese firm will have a host of new products in the coming 12 months.



What's in a name?

BLUE is not only a popular colour for a car but also appears to be a good name for a vehicle.

A number of owners call their cars Blue Boy, Bluebelle or Bluey, according to a survey of more than 24,000 drivers by AA Driving School.

Names beginning with B seem to be favoured, with other popular monikers including Betsy, Baby, Bess, Bessie, Brian and Bertha.

Other less flattering names include The Shed of Dread, The Crudmobile, and Cactus Jack.



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used car

Buyer's Guide

Used car deals now more sensible

BUYERS of second-hand cars had a tough recession. Already forced by budget and circumstance to buy used, their problem was compounded by high prices and lack of choice.

Fact is, when fewer new cars are sold – as they were after the financial tsunami of late 2008/early 2009 – that means less stock to feed into the used market after a typical vehicle's initial three years' ownership.

The shortage of used cars for sale was then exacerbated by the previous Government's ill-conceived scrappage scheme (March 2009 to March 2010) when owners of cars more than 10-years-old were offered £2,000 by the Treasury and manufacturers to scrap their car and buy a new one.

Some 400,000 cars – often better than old bangers that stayed on the road – were lost in this way, when many could have soldiered on doing a service to those on a tight budget.

However, new car sales have recovered well lately due to greater consumer confidence and tempting promotional deals, which means many good late-registered



DRIVING FUN FOR LESS:
Enjoy the road with used cars like the Peugeot 3008 crossover

second-hand cars have been filtering back into the market.

The other good news on the used car front is that better reliability, regulation and care is available to buyers in this market.

During the recession, franchised

dealers had to rely on and improve used car operations, with many branded schemes upgraded to mirror the service given to new car customers. This in turn encouraged customer satisfaction polls, making brands and dealers keener to move

up the rankings or simply maintain position.

All of which suggests that now is not a bad time to buy used, as dealers become clogged with part exchange stock from a bumper '64 new registration plate change.

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†£500 saving available on new Toyota retail sales (excluding AYGO) when ordered between 17th - 20th October 2014. This offer can be used in conjunction with any other additional Toyota offers. Available at participating centres only. Free Halloween Pet Photoshoot is not included in this offer. 5 Year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty is subject to terms and conditions.

Diesel ~versus~ petrol

DIESEL has been the wonder fuel of the past decade or so. Once associated with commercial vehicles, it can now be found in luxury cars and even sports models. Diesels have also overtaken petrol as the first choice with UK new car buyers, but there are signs that the type is running out of puff. Its original appeal was the cheaper fuel, greater mpg and better low down pulling power of the engines, plus their ability to meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, diesel fuel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and the cars cost significantly more to buy – new or used. Buyers rightly ask: “Will I ever claw that money back in fuel savings?” Diesel engines are also heavier, dulling driver enjoyment in smaller cars and wearing front tyres and mechanicals faster. Meanwhile, petrol power has hit back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging for extra flexibility.



IS DIESEL REALLY THE ANSWER? If you are buying a second-hand small car then a petrol model like this first generation Hyundai i30 may be cheaper to buy and own than a diesel rival



Octavia (1998-present)

It was the car that announced how Skoda had turned its back on the old Communist era jokes and aimed, under Volkswagen's guidance, to become a serious car manufacturer. Since then three generations of Octavia have proved to be great value, thoroughly modern for their time and dependable, with a choice of good engines and hatchback or handy estate, and even all-wheel drive versions that include the

rugged, high-riding Scout model. As a brand, Skoda and its dealers usually head customer satisfaction polls – nobody makes those jokes any more.

Used appeal

- Driving:★★★★
- Image:★★★★
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- Value:★★★★
- Reliability:★★★★
- How green?:★★★★

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SUV LUXURY: Jeep's Grand Cherokee



REAL MPV QUALITY: Toyota's seven-seat Verso

SMALL is beautiful and affordable in the current new car market, but what if you need more space for your family or an active lifestyle?

That's where the used market can help: for the same financial commitment as buying a new supermini you could get behind the wheel of something roomier and really quite interesting, such as a smart estate car, well spec'd up MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or a chunky SUV (sports utility vehicle).

Taking an alternative view

All three have been car market sales stars in recent years and more are coming onto the second-hand market now.

The SUV was largely inspired by rough, tough 4x4 styling, but when drivers realised they simply weren't using the full off-road capacity, the complexity was reduced and the SUV or 'soft-roader' was born, often

available in frugal front-wheel drive only form too.

The MPV's one-box style and height evolved from the need to carry the maximum number of people and their luggage; a sort of posh minibus for which the term 'people carrier' was quickly coined.

The usual five or seven seats are

also installed with flexibility in mind so they can be folded in any combination or even left flat, turning the MPV into a useful van.

Not happy to leave it there, manufacturers then realised they could marry both types and add family hatchback driveability, to create the crossover.

But not everyone is convinced by

these newbies, so there has also been a revival of the estate car, not that it's often referred to so humbly – sports tourer, ST and other variations are more likely.

This is because modern estates are asked to say more about your active living. Indeed, many are described as 'lifestyle estates', where looks are often given priority over load-carrying prowess.

Nevertheless, an estate is still a superior carrier to an equivalent hatchback and some versions have a higher ground clearance and 4x4 for limited off-roading

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Buying used: **dos** & don'ts

Don't accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.

Do check out the warranty – some cars with long original warranties may have several years remaining, while some brands often top up a used car's warranty.

Don't fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination, or just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.

Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it isn't getting any easier out there.

Don't be blinded by road tax-exempt but expensive eco models though – check price, running costs, green credentials and the savings over your planned mileage v years of ownership, then compare against the closest standard version. Overall savings on the standard car may surprise you.

Don't assume a diesel will save – you usually pay more upfront so you need to cover more miles to claw that money back in fuel economy, and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps. In short – do your sums.



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Used appeal

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(12) 107 Allure 1.0 5Dr, Red.....	£6,995	£6,795	£200	(63) 308 Access 1.6 Ehdi, Black.....	£10,495	£9,995	£500
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Duties will include providing secretarial support to the staff, answering enquiries via the telephone, minute taking and whatever other assistance is needed in order to provide support for staff, pupils, parents and other stakeholders. The ability to work effectively as part of a team and demonstrate a professional approach at all times is required. The Deputy will be responsible for the administration and recording of staff absences, staff training and of teaching cover during the day. They will deputise in the Administration Manager's absence. **Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**



These posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

The Deputy will support this commitment by becoming a DBS liaison officer, for which training will be provided.

Ofsted 2012 - Outstanding

Recruitment packs including a person specification and job description are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should also include a covering letter detailing how they meet the person specification.

Closing date: 22 October 2014 (noon)
Contact Details Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA - Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA
Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



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Closing Date:
Friday 24th October 2014



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PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/1077/SH - Dundas Farm Big Pett Elmsted Ashford Kent - Erection of a two-storey extension to the northwest elevation following the demolition of the existing single storey extension and link; erection of a two-storey extension to the southwest elevation following demolition of the existing extensions; alterations to the dormer windows; other external alterations.

Y14/1078/SH - Dundas Farm Big Pett Elmsted Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of a two-storey extension to the northwest elevation following the demolition of the existing single storey extension and link; erection of a two-storey extension to the southwest elevation following demolition of the existing extensions; alterations to the dormer windows; other internal and external alterations.

Y14/1086/SH - Frogdene Frogholt Folkestone Kent CT18 8AT - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of thirty one trees followed by the replanting of Thorn, Maple and Holly and various pruning works to fourteen trees.

Y14/1084/SH - 9 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JW - Erection of a single storey side and front extension with terrace above, first floor side extensions, alterations to reduce the roof height, together with other external alterations.

Y14/1081/SH - Westenhanger Castle Stone Street Westenhanger Hythe Kent - Retrospective Consent for the Tudor Kitchen, reinstatement of a missing porch, and construction of a new toilet block.

Y14/1095/SH - 2 Granville Parade Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AL - Erection of a single storey rear extension, following removal of existing lean-to.

Y14/0885/SH - 6 Douglas Avenue Hythe Kent CT21 5JT - Erection of a single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory.

Y14/1110/SH - The Old Wool Barn Canterbury Road Etchinghill Folkestone Kent - Felling of an Ash and a Eucalyptus tree situated within a conservation area.

Y14/1122/SH - 14 Prospect Road Hythe Kent CT21 5NL - Felling of a Hawthorn and a Yew tree situated within a conservation area.

Y14/1094/SH - Folkestone Primary Academy Park Farm Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5DN - Construction of 125 dwellings (Class C3) following the demolition of the Folkestone Primary Academy (formerly Park Farm Primary School) being details pursuant to outline planning permission reference Y11/1132/SH (details relating to appearance and landscaping).

Y14/1102/SH - The Thorn Stone Street Stelling Minnis Canterbury Kent - Outline application for a mixed use development comprising 1,720 sq. metres of Business (Class B1) commercial floorspace, 9 No. 4 bed dwellings and 5 No. 3 bed dwellings, following demolition of 3 former chicken sheds and 1 industrial building.

Y14/1066/SH - Aspen House West Terrace Folkestone Kent CT20 1TH - Proposed replacement of existing square section steel & glass balconies with new marine grade stainless steel 316mm Handrail and upright supports together with toughened laminated glass balustrade.

Y14/1019/SH - Flat 1 38 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2RU - Installation of replacement uPVC front door and windows throughout.

Y14/0967/SH - Elderbank The Row Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a garage and hobby room following demolition of existing garage.

Y14/1091/SH - 35 Westbourne Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2HX - Felling of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of a replacement tree.

Y14/1013/SH - Horton Priory Lane Monks Horton Ashford Kent - Listed Building Consent for alterations to the 1st and 2nd floors of north wing to form ensuite bedrooms, including creation of 2 new openings.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for Variation of Premises Licence

We Mid Kent College of Higher and Further Education hereby give notice that we have made an application to the to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for grant of variation to the premises licence to add the New Pavilion Restaurant and Box Office area in front of the Hall/ Pavilion Theatre for the provision of licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol within the current approved hours for the premises namely 11.00– 24.00 - Monday to Sunday and Late Night Refreshment within the current approved hours for the premises namely 23.00 -00.30 Monday – Sunday and To amend the existing condition of the licence relating to access to the premises and to amend existing condition relating to college security

In respect of the premises situated at Mid Kent College, Medway Campus, Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1FN. A Copy of the application can be inspected at the Licensing Department, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during office hours or on our website at www.medway.gov.uk/licensing.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Unit at the Council Offices or by e-mail to licensing@medway.gov.uk by 30th October 2014 or by telephone 01634 337107 after which date no objections will be considered.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

**Stephen Thomas LAW,
Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne,
Kent ME19 5QP**

NOTICE PURSUANT TO S. 27 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

Surname	Boorman
First Name	Edwin
Middle Names	Roy Pratt
Date of Death	14 March 2012
Last Address	Redhill Farm, 339 Redhill, Wateringbury, Kent, ME18 5LB
Executors	Mrs J. Boorman, Mr. H. Boorman and Mrs P. Dyson all of Redhill Farm, 339 Redhill, Wateringbury, Kent, ME18 5LB
Date for claims	By 17th November 2014
Legal Information	

Notice is hereby given pursuant to s. 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of any of the deceased persons whose names and addresses are set out above is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons whose names and addresses are set out above, and to send such particulars before the date specified in relation to that deceased person displayed above, after which date the personal representatives will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice and will not, as respects the property so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have had notice.



MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 COCKLE FISHERY FLEXIBLE PERMIT BYELAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a Cockle Fishery Flexible Permit Byelaw to manage cockle stocks outside the area of the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 1994.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH or ifcabylaws@marinemangement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

Kent SEN Trust Statutory Notice

This is a proposal to form a partnership of schools by acquiring TRUST Kent-SEN. The schools in the partnership will be Bower Grove School, Foxwood School, Goldwyn School, Grange Park School, Highview School, Ifield School, Meadowfield School, Ridge View School, Rowhill Special School and Valence School.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that:

the Governing Body of Bower Grove School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Bower Grove School which is a community special school located at Fant Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8NL

the Governing Body of Foxwood School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Foxwood School which is a community special school located at Seabrook Road, Hythe, Folkestone, Kent CT21 5QJ

the Governing Body of Grange Park School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Grange Park School which is a community special school located at Borough Green Road, Wrotham Kent, TN15 7RD

the Governing Body of Highview School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Highview School which is a community special school located at Moat Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DJ

the Governing Body of Meadowfield School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Meadowfield School which is a community special school located at Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL

the Governing Body of Ridge View School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Ridge View School which is a community special school located at Cage Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PT

the Governing Body of Rowhill Special School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Rowhill Special School which is a community special school located at Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7PW

The proposed alteration in each case is to change school category from Community Special School to Foundation Special School and, together with one or more of the proposed partners, to acquire a trust established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Notice is also given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that:

the Governing Body of Goldwyn School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Goldwyn School which is a foundation special school located at Godinton Lane, Great Chart, Ashford TN23 3BT

the Governing Body of Ifield School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Ifield School which is a foundation special school located at Cedar Avenue, Gravesend Kent DA12 5JT

the Governing Body of Valence School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Valence School which is a foundation special school located at Westerham Road, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN

The proposed alteration in each case, together with one or more of the proposed partners, is to acquire a trust established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The proposed name of the foundation will be Kent SEN Trust and the proposed implementation date is 1st January 2015. The Trust does not already act as a foundation for any foundation or voluntary school.

The proposed members of the Trust are:

- Kent Association of Special Schools (1 Trustee)
- The Co-operative Movement (initially represented by the Co-operative College) (1 Trustee)
- Broomhill Bank School (2 Trustees)
- Bower Grove School (2 Trustees)
- Foxwood School (1 Trustee)
- Goldwyn School (2 Trustees)
- Grange Park School (2 Trustees)
- Highview School (1 Trustee)
- Ifield School (2 Trustees)
- Meadowfield School (2 Trustees)
- Ridge View School (2 Trustees)
- Rowhill Special School (2 Trustees)
- Valence School (2 Trustees)

In addition, learners at each of the schools, parents, staff, members of the local community and local community organisations will be able to become members of the Trust. The Trust will have a Stakeholder Forum composed of members, which will be able to appoint some of the Trust's trustees. As the Trust develops, it will welcome other schools joining.

The ten named schools have long worked together for mutual benefit and the rationale for acquiring the Trust, the contribution it will make, and the direction it will provide to the schools can be summarised by its objectives, as follows:

- To further improve outcomes for all our learners in all our schools, with a strengthened focus on school-to-school self improvement.
- To support each school to become - and then stay - 'Outstanding'.
- To strengthen our ability to work collaboratively and co-operatively to enable our schools to grow, develop and improve together.
- To formalise and further develop arrangements already in place for joint working, including support for innovation and research in teaching and learning by our colleagues.
- To develop further the skills and expertise of staff across the schools to secure high quality teaching and learning for all
- To further share resources and skills across the schools and investing in our staff and our organisational systems to increase our skills, experience and efficiencies
- To further increase levels of aspiration across our school communities thereby impacting positively upon standards.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the full proposal can be obtained from any of the school websites or from any of the schools by writing to its Governing Body (address above) or by e-mail to:

hhiggins@highview.kent.sch.uk

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this notice any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by email to the address above, or in writing to the Governing Body of the appropriate school (addresses above).

13th October 2014

Garraway, Margaret

Died peacefully at home on Monday the 6th of October aged 89 years.

Wife of the late Fred, much loved aunt of Paul, will be greatly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours.

Funeral Service will take place at Beckenham Crematorium at 11.15 am on Wednesday 15th October.

Family flowers only please.

Donations in memory to RSPCA, a box for which will be available at the service.

Any queries to Uden's Funeral Services 01689 822291

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and 020 8477 3720

email.appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

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Small Ads

Vigo Parish Council MAINTENANCE WORKS & LITTER PICKING ANNUAL CONTRACT April 2015 – March 2018

Vigo Village, Kent

Vigo Parish Council is looking for contractors for the Maintenance Works and Litter Picking of the communal land of Vigo Village, (a gross area of 55 hectares) including the Village Green. (Tree Work and Grass Cutting are not included, as they are covered by separate contracts). Tenderers will be required to supply their own equipment and include in their tender price the cost for all necessary labour and equipment. Examples of maintenance works include cutting back encroaching undergrowth at woodland and grass margins, leaf blowing of main paths in autumn, mowing and clearing of path margins, trimming/hedging shrubs, planting spring bulbs, painting metal benches and bollards, keeping paths clear from overhanging branches, daily inspection of Village and dealing with any issues that arise. This is not an exhaustive list.

The Litter Picking Contract will include the cleaning of some public areas (bus shelter and play park etc), clearing and gritting some paths during snow and ice, as well as a daily seven day a week litter pick.

The Tenderer can apply for the whole contract (maintenance AND litter picking) or separately for the maintenance works OR the litter picking.

Initial expressions of interest are requested and must be received no later than Friday 24th October 2014. Tender documents will be dispatched week beginning 27th October 2014 to selected tenderers with a return date of Friday 14th November 2014.

The persons / contractors invited to tender for the above works will be expected to make a written application including the following information:

- Name of Persons/Company, trading address, telephone number and contact name
- Details of similar works/contracts carried out, including client, value and location
- Details of company structure and resources
- Names and addresses of 3 referees from whom a reference may be sought regarding the contractor's experience and ability.

**The Clerk, Vigo Parish Council, The Bay,
Vigo Village, Kent. DA13 0TD. 01732 823337
vigoparishcouncil@talktalkbusiness.net**

In the second part of his interview with Kent County Cricket Club chief executive Jamie Clifford,

So much change ... but will the ends justify the means?

IN trying to find reasons for years of, to put it kindly, sporting under-achievement, any number of people can come up with any number of ideas, however far-fetched they might sound.

In the case of Kent County Cricket Club, one of the more intriguing relates to the Band of Brothers, the shadowy-sounding organisation that, it has been rumoured to varying degrees, has held sway over much of what goes on at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

A quick internet search tells you that they are, quite simply, a cricket club, but, given the opportunity to ask Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford quite what role they play at his club, it's a question that has to be put.

Perhaps it's that Masonic-sounding title, but the mutterings persist.

"They're a wandering cricket club based at Torry Hill [south of Sittingbourne] who play other wandering cricket clubs – they've got quite a large membership. You'd have to speak to others about the relationship between them and Kent in the 1970s and earlier, when it did seem strong.

"In my 12 years here, though, I've not really noticed their influence. I think the social aspect would have changed so much," says Clifford.

"They have a tent during Canterbury Week, but that's about it. Over time it has changed – the history of the two clubs was once very close, but it's not now. Honestly, it's not a present thing at all. It goes back to Lord Harris, who was Kent cricket and the main player for Band of Brothers."

That mention of Canterbury Week brings to mind this year's festival. To some eyes, it lacked the sense of occasion of recent years, when the ground, in the collective memory at least, was a riot of marquees, pennants and hops.

"We were stuffed on it this year," says Clifford. "We had one County Championship match and that was at the weekend. We play a lot more cricket than we used to, so there's less focus on it. But it's a piece of history you can't invent. Other counties have tried it and it was a flop.

"We had 11,000 people this year, which, given the scheduling, was OK. Not a great success but better than not having it. The tent frontage was no different, there was just a different configuration. People have nostalgic ideas of how it used to be, but often it's just perception.

"We're still looking to maintain it as part of our future. Miss one year and until the end of time you'll never get it back.

"You have to balance being commercial with being traditional and there are points where you have to go with one or the other. If you're not commercial, there's no club.



LOOKING FORWARDS: The chief executive believes the work done at The Spitfire Ground was wholly necessary

Clifford's stressing of the commercial side is familiar, but what about that tradition? Has too much been sacrificed?

Few would argue, for example, that St Lawrence possesses the same charm it had before such a large chunk was sold for housing and the development of a Sainsbury's store, above which sits the club's admin offices.

Even allowing for the modernisation it has facilitated, does Clifford regret to any extent the development that has changed forever what was once widely regarded as one of the most attractive grounds in the land?

"I guess it's the price of change," he says. "It was a pretty bleak scenario. We had no reserves or assets other than land and we had to get money in fast. What else do we do? It had got to the point where we had to do something. All we had was land and the obvious thing to do was build on it.

"So regret's a strong word – you have to see it in context.

"I accept that the impression is different as you approach the ground, but once you're in watching cricket there are trees on two sides and the Sainsbury's is not visible.

"You have to take all the factors into account – to go back in the books and see we could have just died a slow death.

"It was self-evident we had problems. The infrastructure was falling apart, the buildings were beyond their useful life and losses were mounting.

"It was heading for an inevitable conclusion that was not pretty – we were in a bad way as little as four or five years ago.

"We had to stem the losses and get control back. We had to be creative.

"Even now it's hard work and it wouldn't be right to say it's all smelling of roses. There's a lot of hard work to do on all fronts."

For many of those who have watched their cricket at St Lawrence

over the decades, its drastic change in appearance is still a bitter pill to swallow, however necessary it might or might not have been.

That lovely avenue of trees that led up from the main entrance by The Bat & Ball over the road. Did they really have to come down?

"They're front doors now."

Surely they could have been incorporated into the new development?

"I wasn't the architect."

It seems a harsh attitude to a setting that, if you caught it right, was close to idyllic, but Clifford defends what happened.

"Those trees were rotten. An expert put a spike in one of them and it was hollow. It would be unfair to say that every one of them had to go, but they weren't in a good state."

Does he not at least agree that the design of the housing could have been more sensitive to a venue so steeped in tradition and history?

"Bellway purchased the land from us. Once that had happened, it was not my place to say anything. Context is everything. Certain scenarios need certain interventions and that was the intervention we made.

"We have plans to plant more trees back in the ground. We take our tree management very seriously."

Further plans had featured a gym and hotel, a place that could have tempted people to stay longer in the immediate area for the cricket, but they fell by the wayside to be replaced by a proposed retirement complex.

It has been suggested this was a setback to a long-term business plan.

"Not true. It was a straight sale of land."

Tradition in a very different form that departed St Lawrence in recent years was Albert Chevallier's painting of a cricket match between Kent and Lancashire at Canterbury, which was sold by the club at Sotheby's in 2006 for a reported £680,000. Again, Clifford views the move as beneficial, necessary even.

"It was slightly before my time – I was at the club but not directly involved. It was the thing that started off the redevelopment project.

"We'd reached the point where we couldn't have it because of the insurance – it's in the Long Room at Lord's now. It wasn't an asset here that everyone could enjoy – I guess we were cashing in on something we didn't have direct enjoyment of anyway."

Like it or not, much has changed at St Lawrence and there's no going back, but we can address another persistent rumour: is there a plan lurking deep in the corridors of power to sell off the ground in its entirety?

"I can look you in the eye and tell you no chance," says Clifford. "It's our home, the home of Kent cricket – it's not something to be tossed away.

"If that were the option, it would have happened a long time ago. I think people still value this ground as big county asset."

Indeed. But when is it going to host a winning side?

Last week I began this interview by suggesting to Clifford that since 1978, when Kent last won the County Championship, they had subjected their supporters to the worst record of any club in the country.

He wasn't convinced but has since had the grace to accept that this was indeed the case, although Derbyshire and Northamptonshire share that undesired bottom rung with Kent.

This is not a place or a time for point-scoring. The issue is how to get Kent out of this grinding catalogue of failure, but first you have to ask how it ever got this bad.

"I'm not sure I would characterise it like that," says Clifford. "It's a good question, but difficult to answer. Only

David Mairs discusses the radical new look of St Lawrence



EYES ON THE PRIZE: 'For all the marketing schemes, people want to see a winning side,' says Jamie Clifford

the people involved can answer. It's a culture – how do you go about attaining success? There's no easy way – 18 clubs are chasing success.

"In the end we're about being competitive. We have to find a way, use our resources and recruiting system.

"We've had a change in the chairman, in the chief executive and in the training staff. We've got a new management team and a fresh perspective – we've come in with our own criteria."

"Cultures are interesting – ideas of success change from culture to culture." "It's becoming harder. There are differential salaries and clubs at Test Match grounds with bigger resources, but one of those has just carried out a £32 million redevelopment and now has massive debt."

There are some at St Lawrence who are disarmingly quick to tell you how tough life is for non-Test-hosting clubs such as Kent and of a world of haves and have-nots, but Clifford is not one of them.

"I don't see it that way at all," he

says. "We're about to have two centres [Canterbury and Beckenham] and we're moving towards a situation where we have no debt.

"There's no doubt that there's a lot of talent about, but we have to find a way, I don't see us as have-nots."

This season's highlight was unquestionably the Royal London One-Day Cup semi-final appearance. That match was lost at Edgbaston, but the quarter-final was played at Canterbury and, given it was Kent's first knock-out match there since a T20 play-off tie in 2009, a crowd of some 2,200 could be viewed as disappointing.

It's in contrast to other provincial counties such as Somerset, where such an occasion would guarantee a full house. What will bring back the crowds to St Lawrence?

"Winning.

"For all the marketing schemes and bright ideas, people want to see a winning side. Yes, there's social-media marketing and email campaigns and [commercial director] Pat

Mellsop is doing a super job, but winning is the one thing that breathes life into all of that.

"I know what the history of Kent means and I'm not accepting of where we are now. I feel the pressure of that. Without sounding pompous, I feel that's what I'm here to do – to get us back to where we should be."

The question remains as to how the situation at the club descended to the point it did and it may be that the events that unfolded behind the scenes will never be fully revealed.

Clifford talks a good game, without question, and my two hours with him in his office overlooking the St Lawrence sward pass swiftly and comfortably.

His passion for Kent cricket rings true, but it is only when the club win trophies and earn their place back in Division One of the County Championship – and go on to win it – that his work will be done.

The wait has been too long.

■ For an extended version of this article, visit www.kentnews.co.uk

NTW

Nelson on the spot for Gills after returning from injury

GOALKEEPER Stuart Nelson returned from injury on Tuesday night to take the star role in Gillingham's penalty shoot-out win at Colchester United in the second round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

It could hardly have been more memorable; not only was this his first appearance since injuring thumb ligaments against MK Dons in the first match of the season but he saved two spot-kicks and scored the winner in the shoot-out after the teams had reached full-time locked at 3-3.

Brennan Dickenson, Bradley Dack and Antonio German scored for Gills and Drey Wright, Sanchez Watt (penalty) and Freddie Sears for Colchester in a tie that had seesawed throughout before Nelson settled the affair at 4-2 in the shoot-out.



SCORER: Stuart Nelson



FRONT MAN: Shakey leads pack

Shakey can take title No 4 at Brands

SITTINGBOURNE'S Shane 'Shakey' Byrne will look to become the most successful rider in the history of the British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch next weekend (Friday to Sunday, October 17-19).

He will go head to head with Japanese racer Ryuichi Kiyonari in the final Showdown event as both look for a record fourth title.

Byrne has just a 12-point lead over Kiyonari, with a maximum score of 75 points available in the triple-header.

Race action is over both Saturday and Sunday, with spectators having the opportunity to get closer to the stars with a free-of-charge pit walk on Sunday.

Kent miss out as weather wins day

KENT lost their English Senior Men's County Championship title in frustrating fashion this week as the weather had the final say.

Having gone into the final day (Thursday) at Hindhead on level terms with Lancashire, both counties having claimed two victories, an exciting climax looked in prospect, but it wasn't to be.

Although the foursomes were completed, the singles were delayed. Some matches were started, but after a delay for lightning and heavy downpours play was abandoned.

That meant that the six singles were declared halves, meaning Lancashire won 5-4, having edged the completed foursomes 2-1.

Kent captain Mark Singfield said: "It's disappointing for us. Sometimes you are on the right end of a rules decision and sometimes you are on the wrong end."

Ladies' game goes to Chatham Town

GILLINGHAM Ladies' match against Coventry City has been moved to Chatham Town because of an adverse weather forecast.

It was feared that the newly-laid Priestfield pitch would suffer from two games in two days, especially with poor weather.

Kick-off is today (Sunday) at 2pm.

Is Charlotte your choice for the year?

KENT women's cricketer Charlotte Edwards could follow in the footsteps of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar after being short-listed for this year's ICC People's Choice Award.

You can cast your vote either via the People's Choice tab at www.lgiccawards.com or Twitter using the hashtags #Edwards and #lgiccawards.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:

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